# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE (INDIA)

ANNUAL REPORT

1990

Picture - Dick de Jong

# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE (INDIA)

*With Compliments*

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*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;*
*maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.*

*(Psalm 82 : 3)*

*TO OUR FRIENDS..... Year 1990 - the beginning of a decade, which brings a new set of challenges and opportunities. To us in LWS India 1990 represented yet another year of introspection, growth and changes. The experience and lessons of the 80's were reviewed to revise strategies for the 90's.*

*The "Low key approach" as we call it, was among the new strategies adopted during the mid 80's and was first experimented with, in the Birbhum project in 1987. This approach recognised the central role of the people in the development efforts and emphasised mobilisation of local resources, with the development workers occupying the role of educators and facilitators. Our experience of the new strategy has been encouraging and the Bolangir project initiated in 1990 has also adopted the same strategy.*

*The On-site Improvement Project initiated in early '85, as a pilot project to understand the complexities of working in urban slum and squatter settlements was began to be phased out during 1990. In the post withdrawal phase, further studies are being undertaken to understand and document the process of development and its impact on the population. It's envisaged that certain components of the onsite improvement activities will be incorporated into the ongoing Calcutta project.*

*The year 1990 also witnessed LWS India withdrawing its activities from the Burdwan project. The documentation of the Burdwan experience assumes a special significance since in Burdwan we attempted to define and operationalise together with the community organisations the withdrawal strategies.*

*LWS India continued the efforts to increase awareness among the project personnel and the assisted population regarding environmental issues. Re-afforestation and social forestry programmes and other environmental protection measures received more attention. Non-conventional and alternate energy sources were promoted. Almost all LWS India projects have undertaken programmes in collaboration with Government agencies for construction of bio-gas plants and fuel efficient smokeless ovens.*

*During the year special efforts were made to further systematise the process of internal evaluation. The new system envisages evaluation of all LWS India projects by national teams on a three year cycle. During 1990, Birbhum Project, Project WHAT and Community Health Services Unit were evaluated by such national teams. Subsequent to the evaluations, scientific follow-up measures have been adopted to implement the recommendations of the evaluation teams.*

*Training for the staff and people continued to receive the highest priority. During 1990, a 2-tier plan for training in 1991 was drawn up after intense consultations among field projects and central level supportive units. The comprehensive training plan takes an integrated view of the training needs of the organisation.*

*Ties between the UELCI and LWS India continued to grow in strength. We in LWS India look forward to even closer co-operation with the UELCI in the new decade.*

*The staff of Lutheran World Service India join me in expressing our gratitude to the Governments of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar for the co-operation we have enjoyed during 1990. We express our gratitude to the UELCI, our Head Ofice in Geneva and our donors in different parts of the world. We also express our thanks for the co-operation we have had with so many people in the villages of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and in the slums of Calcutta, in their efforts for a better future.*

March, 1991

*ERLING NIELSEN*

# PREM (Planning, Research, Evaluation and Monitoring) UNIT

PREM Cell and Programme Section together constitute the PREM Unit of LWS India.

The PREM Cell is a consultative and advisory body to the Management of LWS India, with expertise in development related disciplines and helps build up capabilities in the areas of planning, research, evaluation and monitoring among staff and through the staff among the user groups.

The Programme Section coordinates the overall planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, assists in streamlining information flow system, collects and collates data and acts as a conduit for dissemination of information besides generating reports and documents.

In coordinating planning, monitoring and evaluation, Programme Section provides the basic thrust and direction for the development projects and assists projects to operate within the conceptual framework. Design of methodology, progamme strategy and approach are among the vital functions of the Unit.

The Programme Secretary of LWS India is also the Member Secretary of the PREM Cell and acts as a link between the PREM Cell and LWS India.

The year began with visits to 2 rural projects in January by members of the PREM cell. In Kultali Project their expertise was sought to help strengthen the Income Generation and NFE Programmes and review progress of the Bio-gas scheme.

While in Murshidabad, the project's proposed withdrawal from 4 villages was analysed and inputs provided to facilitate the process.

In course of the year, PREM Cell members also visited Birbhum and Burdwan projects. The major observation in Birbhum related to the need for hastening the implementation process. Consequently, suggestions on the 'HOW' aspect were also made. Continuing the exercises initiated earlier in Burdwan, attention was directed towards strengthening the community organisations and formalising their existence through registration. Considerable inputs were provided during interactions with people and staff for drafting the 'Memorandum of Association', for each of the Zonal Committees - Apex bodies consisting of a cluster of several villages.

Bolangir project in West Orissa, initiated in April 1990, was also visited by members of the PREM Cell. This visit was considered extremely valuable in terms of review and future planning.

An important feature of the field visits was the preparation of reports by members of the visit team and field staff. Besides providing a basis for discussion, these reports were also very useful for review and follow up action.

During the year, the PREM Cell participated and shared expertise with the senior staff of LWS India at the two workshops on 'Self-reliance and Withdrawal Strategy' and 'Guiding Principles'.

As planned, Project WHAT, Community Health Services and Birbhum project were evaluated during 1990, by teams comprising of members/experts from different parts of the country. As a matter of principle, each of the 3 teams included a member from the UELCI. Likewise, each of the 3 teams had a member of the PREM Cell as Coordinator. Besides, PREM Cell as a whole participated in both the pre-planning and post evaluation phases. This process not only helped to develop and systematise procedures but also contributed towards enhancing the quality of the evaluations and reports.

Complementing and supplementing the PREM Cell's role, Programme Section provided the form and content in all these efforts.

Developing a comprehensive Management Information System, Qualitative Indicators for impact monitoring and the Annual Monitoring Report as an effective tool for monitoring, were among some of the other major activities. Programme Section was guided and assisted in these efforts by two consultants and the results were extremely encouraging.

Exercises to develop the Participatory (internal) form of evaluation continued, with the aim of structuring, formalising and making it a part of a continuing and sustainable process. Within the logical framework of an overall evaluation system and intrinsically linked with the External and International Evaluations, the Participatory Evaluation, which would be concurrent in nature, is viewed as the primary level of the three tier evaluation system.

In February and August, senior staff of UELCI, LWS Bangladesh, Nepal and India participated in week long Management Development Training Programmes (MDTP) conducted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta. The programmes which were highly appreciated exposed participants to current management techniques.

The Women's Desk established in 1987 in Programme Section, continued its efforts to accelerate women's participation in all aspects of programme functioning. Workshops and trainings were organised to help staff develop a more systematic and structured process of planning and monitoring women's activities. The supportive units' and projects' concern facilitated the emergence of a gender sensitive approach to programme functioning.

1990, the SAARC year of the Girl Child also witnessed increasing awareness of the discrimination against the girl child. Besides initiating discussions on the issues, plans for a year long awareness programme on the disadvantaged status of the girl child were also drawn up.

While continuing to provide the basic thrust and direction to the projects, the Programme Section's scope of activities has grown considerably over the years. Providing conceptual frame and operational methodologies for the development projects, continues to be a vital function.

During the year 1990, the PREM Cell consisted of :

Dr. B.R.Patil, Chairman
Sociologist
New Delhi.

Dr. K. Rajaratnam, Member
Executive Secretary,
United Evangelical Lutheran Churches In India,
Madras.

Dr. P.Roy, Member
Sociologist
New Delhi.

Mr. S.K.Chakraborty, Member
Indian Administrative Service (Retd.)
Calcutta.

Mr. J. B. Singh, Member
New Delhi.

Dr. A.K.Bhattacharyya, Member
Agronomist
Calcutta.

Mr. Neville Pradhan,
Programme Secretary, LWS India and Member Secretary.

# WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE TRIDENT (PROJECT WHAT)

Project WHAT based on the concept of watershed management focusses on the optimum use of precipitation through improved water, soil and crop management techniques as well as on the stabilisation of agriculture in and around watersheds. The programme emphasises effective conservation methods and utilisation of local resources as opposed to profit maximisation,to bring about qualitative changes in peoples lives. Peoples' participation and involvement have been accepted as preconditions for achieving the projects' goals. As a result, motivational and educational efforts have received high priority to improve peoples capacity to receive and utilise various inputs and services.

Year 1990 represented the 8th year of project operations in the Mayurbhanj district of Orissa. During the year the project was operational in 125 villages (population 51000) in three blocks viz. Bijatala, Jamda and Bisoi. Development activities undertaken in 1990, included development of irrigation facilities based on the principles of watershed management, provision and extension of agricultural inputs and services, provision of health services, education and training, development of village crafts and other avenues of supplementary income. Special training programmes were organised to strengthen the community organisations and self help groups, particularly women's organisations.

During the year the project drew up plans to phase out activities from around 40 villages adopted in the initial years of project operations. Parameters developed by the PREM Cell for assessing growth of self-reliance was further refined by the project team. Through village meetings, group discussions and dialogues the community organisations and the self help groups in the villages participated in the process of designing a strategy for phased withdrawal of LWS India inputs.

Agriculture, being the major occupation of the people in these areas, needs the most urgent attention. The project, therefore, sought to train the farmers in optimum utilisation of land and water, careful selection of crops and appropriate agricultural practises, which include land preparation, soil and crop management and judicious use of fertilisers.

These efforts have started paying off as most of the farmers have begun to discard their old practices and adopt new methods. They have learnt to maximise the utilisation of monsoons and have shifted from growing only paddy on highlands to planting more appropriate crops such as maize, black gram and other pulses. These crops have not only proved more profitable than highland paddy but have also improved soil conditions. Yet another example of the changes in agricultural practices is that this year high yielding variety paddy was transplanted in 50% of the medium land, as opposed to the earlier practice of seed broadcasting. To the farmers, the significant increase in yields more than justified the extra labour and inputs. Many farmers have given up the practise of using old seeds. With the project's help they have established contacts with.. the Government Agriculture Department which provide them good quality seeds at subsidised rates.

This year per acre paddy production increased to 1200 kgs from 700 kgs in 1989. The per acre maize production was also substantially higher. However, prolonged monsoons delayed the preparation of land for the second crop of wheat, mustard, gram and vegetables.

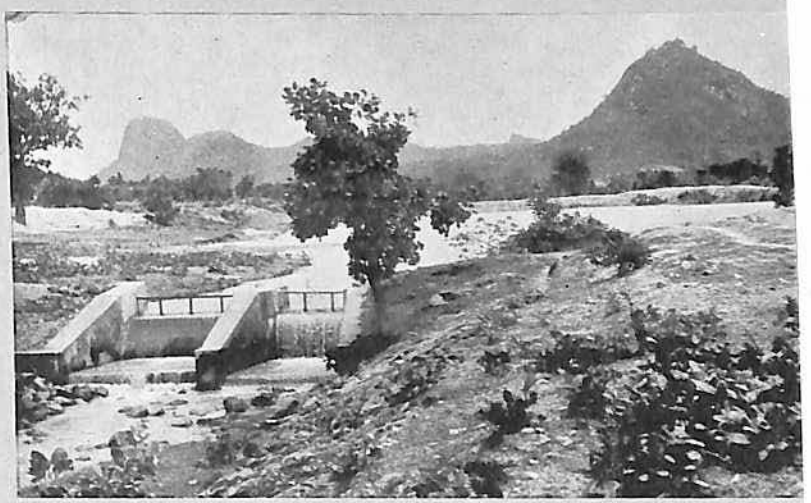
Having learnt from the project's demonstrations how to use improved agriculture equipments like M B plough, trench hoe, rack weeder, etc., this year the farmers on their own initiative contacted various resource agencies and the Government for purchase of these improved implements. Farmers collected soil samples to test them for deficiencies to enable them to use the right type and dose of fertilisers. To further promote the practice of soil testing, the project has undertaken a programme to provide on the job training in soil testing to the more literate farmers.

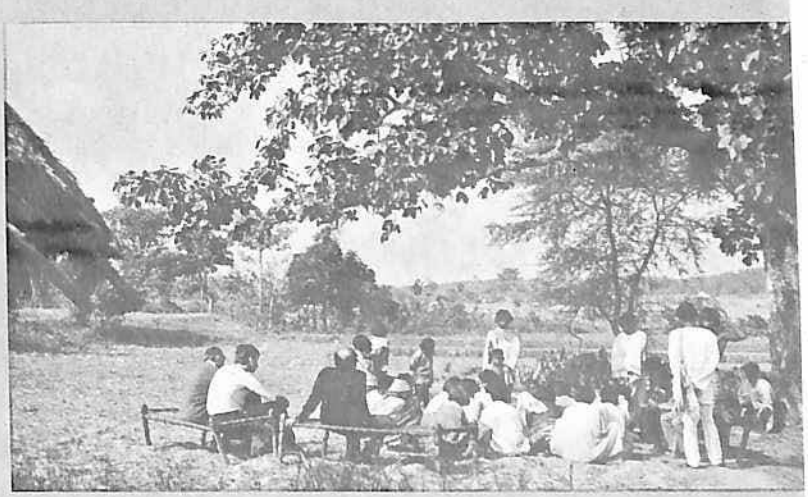
The project in collaboration with the Integrated Tribal Development Agency and Horticulture Department extended support to the villagers to undertake social forestry programme on the undulating, barren and uncultivable land. The saplings, whose survival rate is 85 to 90% protect the soil and repair, to some extent, the environmental damage caused by deforestation.

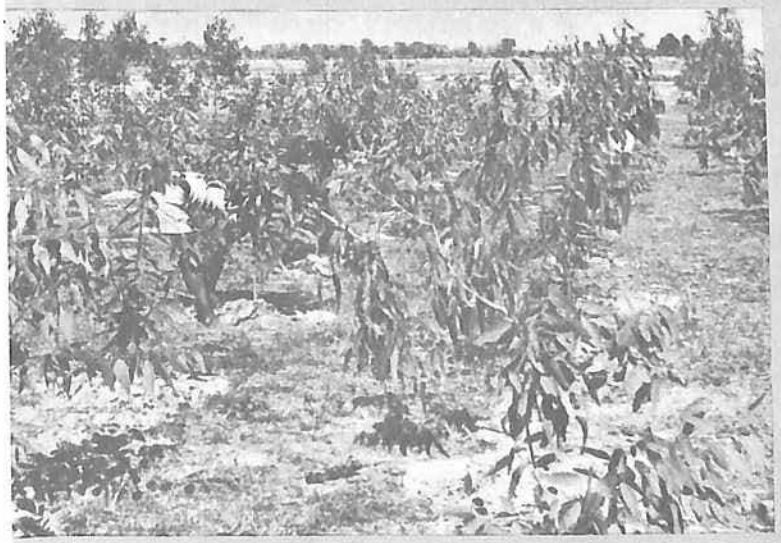
Nine nursery groups, including 4 groups newly formed in 1990, are currently engaged in raising saplings. During the year they raised approximatly 550,000 saplings of proven timber, fuel, fodder, food and ecological value. One of the groups comprising entirely of women has raised 15600 saplings of fruit bearing trees like blackberry, jackfruit etc. The saplings were distributed through the women's organisations in several villages.

In Jamda which has large tracts of barren and degraded land, 15 villages were brought under the social forestry programme covering 410 acres of land this year. While the Integrated Tribal Development Agency financed 100 acres, the remaining acreage was planted with the project's support by the village committees who recycled their community funds for the programme. An orchard development plan was initiated in a school compound in one village by the villagers. The Government released funds to cover 10 acres of mango orchard at the request of the

Watershed Management







school committee and the villagers. The project staff provided the technical know-how on land preparation, planting and organising. It's envisaged that income from the orchard in future will help the community to maintain and manage the school.

Despite annual rainfall of 1200 mm to 1500 mm, cultivation is very difficult in the area because of the undulating terrain which causes rapid run off and erosion of the valuable top soil. To combat this problem the project in consultation with the village committees and with their active participation undertook land development measures like field bunding and gully control to check run off and arrest soil erosion. Appropriate water harvesting structures such as shallow ponds, tanks and dugwells were also constructed to store the run off water. These and other irrigation infrastructure like earthen diversion weir-cum- canals have brought more acreage under irrigation. These structures have also improved the moisture retention capacity of the land and as a result more farmers can now grow a second crop like mustard, using the residual moisture.

Remoteness of the area and people's way of life has made it difficult to introduce and promote education. In the initial stages most of the villagers, particularly women, showed no interest in learning and children were not sent to schools. But the project's motivational efforts have begun to yield results. The villagers have begun to understand the value of literacy. An increasing number of adults are beginning to attend NFE classes and childen are being sent to schools.

Non formal education (NFE) centres also impart functional literacy through its programmes, particularly to the women and the youth. These centres encourage the villagers to work collectively. The non formal and functional literacy programmes have begun to attract more students as the awareness of the women and the youth has increased and they are now enthusiastically participating in the community development efforts.

The improved level of literacy among the villagers has helped them to gain confidence and they have begun to approach the Government and NGOs to mobilise resources for their development activities. Instructors, often volunteers from the villages, have undergone training on teaching techniques to enable them to run the NFE centres effectively and efficiently.

For purposes of the health programme the project has divided the villages into two categories as intensive and peripheral, according to the degree of their need.

In the intensive villages the package of health services provided, lay stress on preventive and promotive health care. Health education programmes, family visits and group meetings are regularly conducted to improve health awareness. Maternal and child health care programme has received high priority. The project organised a one-day seminar on 'Nutrition', in two villages to build awareness about the importance of nutrition. During the programme, housewives were taught to prepare weaning food from locally available materials as well as methods of cooking to prevent loss of nutrition.

The immunisation programme received a boost this year with the number of immunisations having increased. The local Government public health centre has also extended its cooperation in this field. Growing awareness among young couples on the necessity of family planning was also observed. During the year a number of such couples adopted family planning measures on their own.

The project's safe drinking water drive has gained ground with more and more people realising the importance of the use of safe drinking water and sanitation. A special training programme was organised on the use of safe drinking water. The villagers have begun to accept the fact that most of the diseases they suffer from are water-borne and can be controlled through use of safe drinking water. As a result communities have begun to make more efforts to maintain tubewells, clean and chlorinate open wells and construct soak pits to prevent pollution of drinking water sources.

*Trainees preparing ORS.*

To supplement the income from agriculture which is often meagre, the project initiated many individual and group income generating schemes and attempted to revive traditional skills. The schemes were generated mainly for landless labourers, marginal farmers and women. Small business in duck and goat farming, bee-keeping, cycle repairing, weaving, tailoring, etc. were promoted after imparting the necessary training. The group activities included paddy processing, rice husking and formation of grain banks. Beneficiaries selected by village or hamlet committees were financed from village revolving funds.

Increased participation of women in development activities, non formal education and health activities as well as income generating schemes indicate the new awareness growing among women of the area. Several women's organisations are actively involved in the community development efforts. The village organisations too have shown marked improvements in their functioning. All the development schemes are planned, implemented and monitored by these organisations. Village funds too continued to grow. Efficient recycling of village funds has given a new fillip to the development activities in the villages. This year 70% of the community funds was recycled for agriculture, irrigation and economic activities. Many of the village or 'sahi' committees have developed capabilities of properly utilising the funds according to the regulations formed by them.

During the year the project organised several training programmes to upgrade the skill and knowldge of the assisted population. Special training programmes were organised to familiarise the farmers with the principles and practices of watershed management. Agriculture training programme focussed on the use of land close to water sources for growing at least two crops. Selection of crops and soil testing were other important aspects of the training programme.

Women were trained in raising nurseries and traditional weavers were taught to work on improved looms. The weavers can now buy looms from the Government at a 50% subsidised rate. Besides this, a six-month pump repairing training course has been started with the help of the District Rural Development Agency and financed by the Government.

NFE teachers were trained to update their knowledge and improve their teaching techniques. Community organisation members were trained in fund management, planning, implementation, monitoring as well as documentation process.

In early 1990 a national team evaluated the project. The team expressed general satisfaction with regard to the project's progress and made certain recommendations to further strengthen the project's growth. The major recommendations included a reorientation in project strategy to give greater emphasis to the watershed management approach, adoption of a broad integrated concept of health as well as more systematic efforts to interlink the community organisations so that they can be the basis for community based self reliance. The project is in the process of implementing these recommendations some of which are being done with assistance of AFPRO.

Co-operation and collaboration with Government agencies and local organisations, have also increased steadily. The project continued to receive material, technical and manpower support from various Government agencies.

# DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

Safe, adequate and accessible supply of water together with sanitation are recognised as the basic health needs and essential components of primary health care. Many of the diseases affecting the under-privileged, especially in the rural areas could be greatly reduced by fulfilling the safe water and sanitation needs. In many communities there is also a lack of understanding of the important relation between potable water and health. Due to non existence of potable water supply, a large number of rural communities continue to depend on rivers, ponds, ditches and canals for water supply. The absence of sanitary excreta disposal coupled with unhygienic practices have contaminated these sources. Therefore the incidence of water borne diseases weigh heaviest on these rural population who do not have access to safe drinking water.

Special pogrammes undertaken during the UN sponsored International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-90) have improved the availability of safe drinking water in many areas. However a large number of villages, particularly in the remote rural areas, are yet to be provided with safe drinking water sources.

The Drinking Water Drilling (DWD) Unit of LWS India caters to the drinking water needs of people in such remote villages which have no assured and safe water sources.

During 1990, the drilling operations were confined to four districts of Orissa, namely, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Balasore, and Bolangir.

In the Rairangpur subdivision of the Mayurbhanj district, the drilling division has sunk 705 tubewells by the end of 1990. In 1990 alone, 122 tubewells were sunk, covering 30,000 people. The project has plans for sinking 45 more tubewells and install handpumps with platforms in the first quarter of 1991, before shifting operations to a different area.

In Kalahandi, 419 tubewells were sunk by the end of 1990, benefitting 105,000 people. The Central Ground Water Board of the Government of India carried out a geo-hydrological survey of the district and declared it a bore-well district. Subsequently, at the request of the Government of Orissa the drilling team intensified its drilling operations. Drinking water development activities in Kalahandi, a chronically drought prone district are expected to continue for some more time, to cover most of the problem villages.

In Bolangir another drought prone district, the operations were started in November 1990. In the initial stage, the project has undertaken the task of drilling 50 tubewells, at the request of the Government.

During the year, in Balasore 20 tubewells were sunk benefitting 5000 people. One hundred sixty people including 50 women participated in the mass awareness campaign on Drinking Water and Community Health.

During early 1990, the rejuvenation programme taken up in Bankura in 1988, was phased out. During the period of operation, 425 defunct tubewells were repaired and new hand pumps were installed and platforms constructed. The entire programme was undertaken with material and technical support from UNICEF, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and the Government of West Bengal.

To enable the villagers to maintain the hand pumps, the project team has, from its early years of operation, initiated training programmes in maintenance and repairs of the pumps for village volunteers. The women, who use the hand pumps most, were trained in ways of using them to reduce wear and tear and minimise chances of breakdown.

Volunteers from the villages participated in four block level training camps held within the districts. Of the 215 volunteers trained, 178 were women. Local Government health personnel like the district or sub-divisional medical officer and personnel from the Public Health Engineering Department of the area, imparted training and also educated the villagers on the necessity of clean drinking water. At the end of the camp, the trained people were given simple tools and a certificate each, authorising them to carry out the maintenance work. Reporting forms are also given along with stamped postcards so that the villagers can get in touch with the Government Agencies responsible for repair, in case some major repair work is necessary.

During the year a survey was conducted in Mayurbhanj, to ascertain the effectiveness of the drinking water resources development, undertaken in the district from 1980. The survey teams

*The rig strikes water.*

comprised of one representative each from LWS India and the local Government. The report revealed that a majority of the tubewells drilled by the drilling unit in the area are functioning well. Out of the 515 tubewells assessed it was found that 389 (75%) were giving excellent service. Water from 74 tubewells (15%) were found to be unsuitable for consumption due to increase in iron content. The remaining 52 tubewells (10%) were found to be defunct due to lack of proper maintenance.

As in previous years, a high level of cooperation and collaboration was maintained with the Public Health Engineering department of Government of Orissa and local Government agencies. Between 30% to 70% of the cost of completed tubewells is borne by the Government. Personnel from Government departments also participate as resource personnel in training programmes conducted for user groups. The DWD unit has been coopted as member of the District Technology Mission. Sharing of survey results and drilling data have also strengthened the programme.

The users participate in the drilling programme by involving themselves in the site selection process, by contributing free labour for building approach roads to facilitate the movement of rigs and by providing water for flushing bore wells. In remote areas the communities also provide temporary accomodation for the drilling crew. Identification of potential hand pump care-takers for training and supervision of the care-takers represent other areas of community involvement.

The drinking water project undertaken by LWS India since 1987 in Ranibandh block of Bankura as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) II of the "Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management" completed its second phase of operations in early 1990. The project was implemented with Government of India funds channelised by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).

The programme aimed at providing safe drinking water to communities in identified problem villages which do not have eassy access to it. The project laid special emphasis on management of water sources and building up of awareness among users regarding the importance of safe drinking water. The project undertook rejuvenation of traditional sources of drinking water such as dug wells and open wells, revitalization of tubewells as well as construction of platforms, soak pits and drainage channels. Low cost water disinfection techniques like pot chlorination and other measures were introduced to prevent contamination of drinking water sources. The project has alo developed and introduced low cost earthen water filters which can be manufactured at village level by local artisans using locally available materials. Hand pump mechanics have been identified and trained. Other village youth have been identified and trained as health educators. These health educators have been imparted training in basic health and hygiene, use of simple disinfection devices like pot chlorination, etc. to overcome water pollution and contamination. The project has also developed media and education tools and organised mass awareness camps in villages. These acttivities have benefited 56,000 population in 6 village panchayats.

After review of the progress made till the end of the 2nd phase, CAPART released more funds to the project in late 1990, to undertake the 3rd phase of the programme. In the 3rd phase of the programme the project will continue to emphasise the development of a community system of repair and management of water sources. Stress will be on introduction of appropriate low cost technology to ensure quantitative and qualitative supply of safe drinking water to the population on a long term basis. Revitalization and rejuvenation of wells and tubewells, construction of drainage systems, soakpits and platforms, training of handpump mechanics and health educators as well as mass awareness camps will represent other major areas of activities.

*New generation of hand pump caretakers.*

# DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

NEW BOREWELLS DRILLED AND TUBE WELLS INSTALLED

| Area | Nos |
|---|---|
| Mayurbhanj | 122 |
| Kalahandi | 92 |
| Bolangir | 1 |
| Balasore | 20 |

PARTICIPATORY INPUTS

| Activity | Level of Participation (in %) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | LWS | Govt | People |
| New Tubewells | 54 | 45 | 1 |
| Tubewell rejuvenation | 27 | 72 | 1 |
| Training | 65 | 30 | 5 |

TRAINING WORSHOP AND SEMINARS-LWS/ CAPART PROJECT

| Subject | Participants |
|---|---|
| Education for rural youth | 63 |
| Handpump mechanic | 5 |
| Health-workers | 13 |

DRINKING WATER RESOURCES LWS/ CAPART PROJECT

| Item | Nos |
|---|---|
| Drinking Water well/Tubewell | |
| : Rejuvenation | 6 |
| : Handpump fitting | 23 |
| : Platforms | 6 |
| : Disinfection | 42 |
| Low cost-water filters | 20 |

TUBEWELL REJUVENATION

| Area | Nos |
|---|---|
| Bankura | 39 |

MASS AWARENESS CAMPS AND TRAININGS

| Subject | Participants | |
|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women |
| Safe Drinking Water and Health | 1080 | 715 |
| Hand pump Maintenance & Sanitation | 37 | 178 |

# PROJECT WHAT

INCOME GENERATION SCHEMES

A. INDIVIDUAL

| Type | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| Live stock | 9 | 34 |
| Cycle repair | 5 | -- |
| Petty business | 3 | 4 |
| Weaving | 2 | -- |
| Pottery | 1 | -- |
| Tailoring | -- | 3 |

B. GROUP

| Type | Nos | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grain bank | 3 | 13 | 12 |
| Mahua bank | 2 | -- | 14 |
| Paper packet making | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Rice husking | 1 | 10 | -- |
| Paddy processing | 3 | -- | 27 |
| Fishing net | 1 | 2 | -- |
| Bee-keeping | 50 | 27 | -- |
| Duckery | 12 | -- | 6 |
| Pisciculture | 1 | 14 | -- |

VILLAGE FUNDS

| Particulars | Amount (Rs) |
|---|---|
| Fund accumulated | 15,92,035 |
| Fund recycled | 10,86,757 |
| Fund recovered | 768,320 |

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

| Type | Nos. | Students | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women | Boys | Girls |
| NFE | 76 | 706 | 384 | 190 | 90 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Subject | Staff | | People | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Agriculture | 20 | 3 | 165 | 2 |
| Nursery raising | -- | -- | 7 | 9 |
| Effect of deforestation | -- | -- | 7 | -- |
| Watershed management | -- | -- | 87 | 9 |
| Traditional birth attendants | 1 | 1 | -- | 7 |
| Traditional health practitioners | -- | -- | 14 | -- |
| Mother and child health care | -- | -- | -- | 44 |
| Nutrition | -- | -- | 11 | 8 |
| Health planning and community organisation | 3 | 3 | -- | -- |
| Non-formal education | 4 | 2 | -- | -- |
| Non-formal education-teachers | -- | -- | 20 | 10 |
| Media development | 3 | 3 | -- | -- |
| Women and development | 2 | 5 | -- | 55 |
| Community organisation | -- | -- | 9 | -- |
| Village fund | -- | -- | 13 | -- |
| Effective leadership | 4 | 6 | 16 | 19 |
| Self-reliance and withdrawal strategy | 6 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Economic measure, agriculture and water management | 9 | -- | -- | -- |
| Animal husbandry | 4 | -- | 19 | -- |
| Tailoring | -- | -- | -- | 15 |
| Cycle repair | -- | -- | 3 | -- |
| Weaving | -- | -- | 8 | -- |

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos | Members | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Village committee | 34 | 182 | -- |
| Sahi committee | 66 | 254 | -- |
| Mahila samity | 39 | -- | 837 |
| Youth club | 2 | 41 | -- |
| Functional group | 47 | 440 | 38 |

IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Units | | Acres | Farmers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Completed | In-Progress | | |
| Earthen diversion canal | -- | 2 | -- | -- |
| Irrigation dug well | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Tank re-excavation | 1 | 1 | 25 | 18 |
| Shallow pond | 41 | 2 | 72 | 120 |
| Canal-phase II | 2 | -- | 90 | 28 |

AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION

| Type | Acres | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Paddy | 5 | 13 |
| Mustard | 4 | 12 |
| Potato | 1 | 1 |
| Plant protection | 20 | 35 |

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

| Type | Acres | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Paddy | 136 | 134 |
| Wheat | 117 | 179 |
| Bengal gram | 9 | 26 |
| Mustard | 88 | 165 |
| Vegetables | 6 | 28 |
| Potato | 6 | 71 |

AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT/DRAFT ANIMALS

| Type | Nos. | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| 5 H.P. diesel pump | 6 | 49 |
| M.B. plough | 60 | 60 |
| Trench hoe | 29 | 29 |
| Low lifting hand pump | 6 | 6 |
| Sprayer | 6 | 77 |
| Thresher | 6 | 45 |
| Seed-cum-fertiliser drill | 1 | 5 |
| Bullock | 4 | 2 |

SOCIAL FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTATION

| Type | Nos | People |
|---|---|---|
| Social forestry | 5,48,704 | 288 |
| Orchard | 700 | 200 |
| Fruit plants | 14,692 | 590 |

LAND DEVELOPMENT MEASURES

| Activity | Acres | Farmers Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Field bunding | 117 | 54 |
| Gully Control | 7 | 12 |

# BURDWAN PROJECT

Burdwan Project became operational in the Jangal Mahal region during 1975. As the region was socio-politically disturbed, the first few years of the project's life were spent in building up receptivity and enlisting people's participation. Initially, the emphasis was on relief and rehabilitation work to gain people's confidence and establish rapport. The largely tribal and scheduled caste population (86,000) residing in 105 villages were mostly landless labourers, steeped in poverty, ignorance and victims of exploitation-resigned to their fate. As a result, they had little or no trust in people outside their own immediate community.

During this period, relief-oriented programmes like distribution of nutritional supplements and clothing, extension of health services, creation of drinking water sources and house construction programmes were carried out. Efforts were also made to build up the skill of the user groups in different vocations, bring about attitudinal changes and improve their knowledge as well as enlist their participation in various development activities.

In 1979, the operational area was divided into six zones, with adequate number of social workers posted in each zone for securing closer ties with the people and ensuring participatory approach for development activities. Around this period village communities formed representative organisations such as village committees.

In 1981, four vocational training centres were established to impart training in tailoring, weaving and bidi-making. Setting up of community grain banks and community revolving funds were mooted around this stage but did not receive the desired response. A few Youth Clubs were also organised for inducting the youth into constructive activities.

By 1982, there were noticeble attitudinal changes among the people. The initial distrust and hostility towards outsiders and general apathy had given way to a higher degree of awarenes and realisation of the need for self reliance.

However, the project suffered a serious setback due to severe drought, during the latter half of 1981 and 1982. To assist people to tide over the difficult situation caused by the drought, the project undertook relief measures in the form of 'Food For Work' till 1983. The food for work activities helped to create infrastructure mostly for irrigation.

In 1984 the project's progress was reviewed and it was realised that the tribal people would be left more vulnerable to the oppressive natural and social forces, if withdrawal was effected in 1986, as per plans. It was, therefore, decided to defer the project's closure to 1988, phasing out the transfer of responsibilities for planning and implementation to the communities and their representative organisations. During the year, the scheduled caste population of these hamlets, who were equally poor and deprived were also included in the project, and the project's operational area was expanded to 45 hamlets spread over 29 villages.

In 1984, there was another major shift in the project's direction. A series of workshops on 'People's Planning' was initiated to impart training on techniques and methods of planning to both the staff and the people for ensuring people's involvement in all spheres of activities. These exercises had a catalytic effect on the people and changed the very nature of their relationship with the project from receivers to partners.

As part of these exercises, in 1985, people conducted socio-economic surveys to gain a better understanding of their problems and the causes thereof.

The youth played a leading role in these exercises, particularly in hamlets where village committees were ineffective. In the process, many village committees were reconstituted and functional groups, along with a number of youth and women's organisations, also emerged. Planning and to a large extent implementation, shifted from the project to village selfhelp groups. Internal relationships in the villages changed with the understanding that co-operation of various kinds within a community benefits both the community and individuals. These developments enabled the villagers to get their legitimate share of public resources from the panchayats, etc. Interestingly, the panchayats also recognised and accepted village plans for purposes of their project funding.

Village revolving funds established in all the hamlets during 1985-86 continued to grow in strength. The rate of recycling and recovery also grew steadily over the years. With the growth of village funds came a strong shift from individual efforts to collective efforts. This new community-awareness strengthened the older groups and resulted in the formation of several new groups in different spheres of activities.

The growth of community feeling and awareness is evident from the establishment of 26 grain-banks, of which only five required initial capital support from the project. The other 21 were set up through voluntary efforts of the members.

Similarly, the communities also through their own efforts established 2 community health centres. In these centres the health workers were assisted by two health volunteers each, selected by the respective village committees. The users availing of the facilities provided by these centres paid fully for the services and medicines, thus helping in the growth of a separate

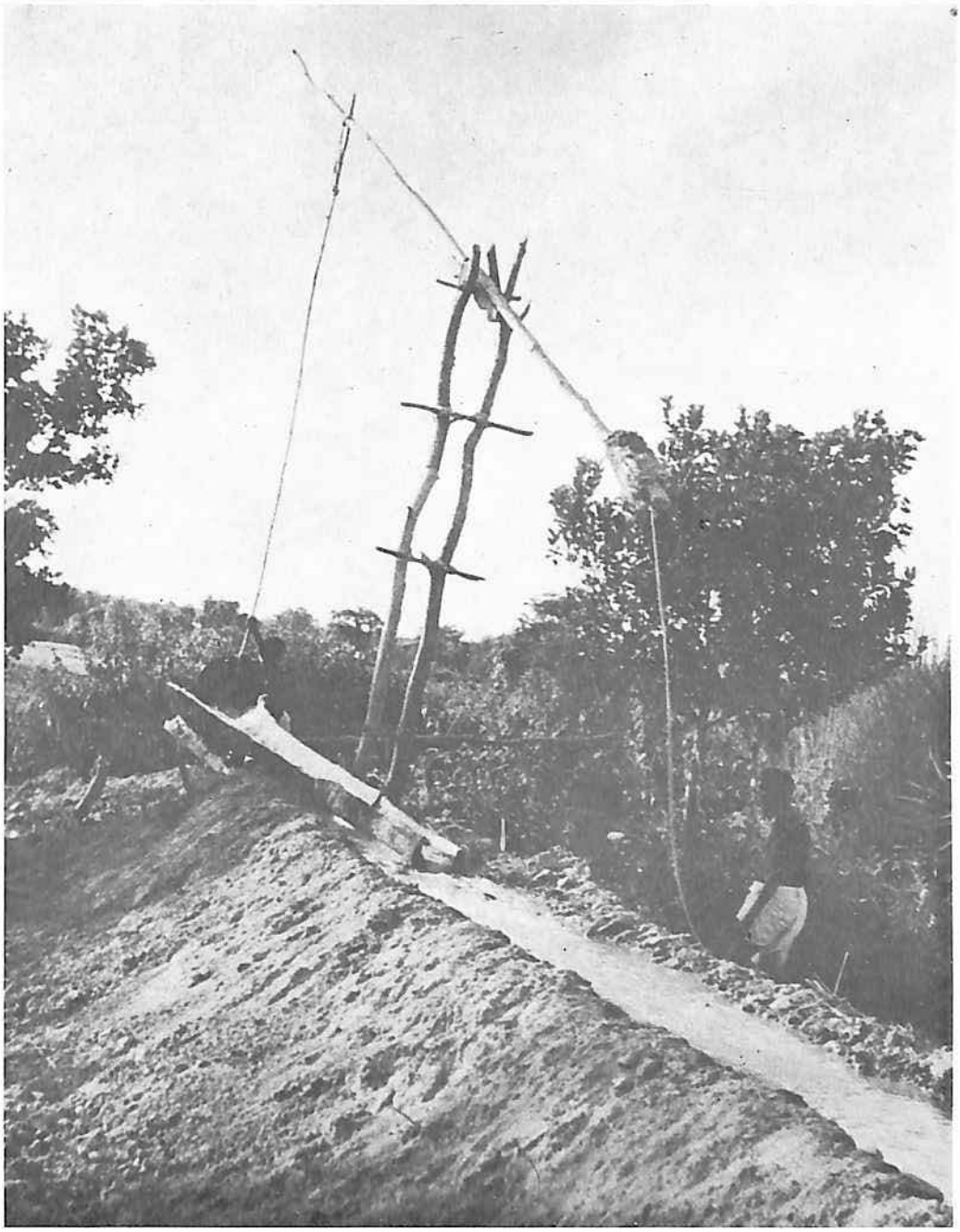
health fund.

Review of the project's progress till '87, resulted in further postponement of the withdrawal date from 1988 to 1990. A couple of years more, it was felt, would give the people opportunity to consolidate their gains. However, the process of withdrawal was initiated in 1987 and continued till mid-1990. During this period the project with assistance from the PREM Unit, undertook a series of exercises to set parameters for withdrawal and also to operationalise an effective withdrawal strategy. With the crystallisation of the concept in the project staff's mind, the exercises were extended to include and involve the people and the village-level organisations.

During these exercises, the project team assisted the community organisations to conduct surveys to assess the growth of self reliance in their communities.

The 1988 survey of per capita income of 20% of assisted families revealed the following picture. *(See table below)*

These exercises helped the people to realise that strength lay in cohesion, unity and managerial capability of their decision-making bodies. As a result, they constituted five zonal committees, each representing a cluster of neighbouring hamlets/villages, having common characteristics and easy accessibility, for co-ordinating all development activities and establishing effective linkages with other organisations and funding agencies. They prepared 'memorandum of



*Indigenous water lifting device.*

| Category | Number of sample families | % of sample population | Per capita income (in Rs.) | | % increase in per capita income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1985 (base yr.) | 1989 | |
| Landless labour | 195 | 45 | 758 | 1541 | 110 |
| Marginal farmers | 229 | 52 | 791 | 1559 | 137 |
| Small farmers | 14 | 3 | 805 | 1587 | 140 |

association' and rules and regulations for regulating the inter-relationship of different organisational tiers and better governance of the internal activities of the village organisations, as well as for overcoming the external threats. The members of the decision-making bodies were imparted training by the project in organisational management, planning, budgeting and accounting, etc., in batches since mid-1989. Four committees formalised their status, through registration under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act.

A sample survey on the degree of achievement of self-reliance by the people at household and community levels was undertaken by the project in the latter part of 1989, using parameters set by the PREM Unit. The analysis of the response of sample families revealed that 60% of the respondents had crossed the poverty line. Ethnic group-wise analysis however revealed that 82% of scheduled tribe families and 43% of scheduled caste families were above the poverty line.

Since 1990, represented the final year of operations, the project focussed attention on completing the transfer of responsibilities to the people for continuing the development activities. The project did not plan or implement any physical activity during the year other than health services and training courses on 'Organisation Management, Planning, Budgeting and Account-keeping' for the functionaries of people's organisations. In the other sectors, people and their organisations assumed the responsibility for designing and implementing schemes/projects independently with technical support from LWS India, whenever required. The people's organisations, with advice and assistance from PREM Unit and project staff, planned their schemes and prepared the budgets for 1990.

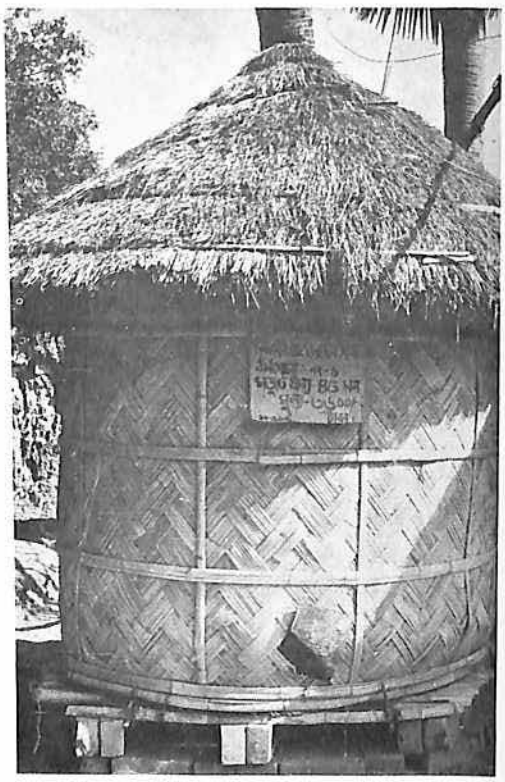
A series of meetings and workshops were held with people and the decision-making bodies of their organisations on the one hand, and the PREM Unit and project staff on the other, for deciding on suitable amendments in the 'memorandum of association' and rules and regulations of the zonal committees to plug loopholes and ensure to the extent possible, their continuity in the face of external threats.

These organisations gradually began to take up the responsibilities of continuing the development programmes, starting with running of three community health centres and other community-based activities from the very beginning of 1990. But by the mid-90, it became apparent that the existing vested interest groups in the area were apprehensive of the development and growth of these bodies. Interference by these elements created serious problems for three of the zonal committees.

While most of the Zonal Committees floundered the Chuwa Zonal Committee, of which 90% families are tribals, has flourished. This apex body adopted a realistic and practical approach in search of resource support for implementation of their planned projects. They approached the Minister-in-Charge of Tribal Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and submitted a comprehensive project for area development. They received sympathetic consideration, and their project was forwarded to the District Development Authority for consideration, feasibility analysis and phased execution.

The zonal committee also developed close relationship with the village and block level Panchayats and constructed a primary school building in one of the hamlets with monetary assistance to the extent of 66% of the total cost from the Panchayat while mobilising the remaining funds from the local beneficiaries. Further, this zonal committee has also established ties with "Liberal Association for Movement of People" (LAMP), a voluntary funding organisation having links with Council

..... *A good harvest.*



..... *Storing for the future.*

for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for securing funds to implement it's training programmes in 1991. Their budget for this purpose, amounting to Rs.20,000/ - had already been forwarded by LAMP to CAPART. In addition to the above, this organisation has closely associated itself with the Mass Education Programmes of the Government of West Bengal since October 1990, and are conducting 8 NFE centres, 5 for men and 3 for women in 3 hamlets within the zone, by recruiting voluntary teachers from among their members.

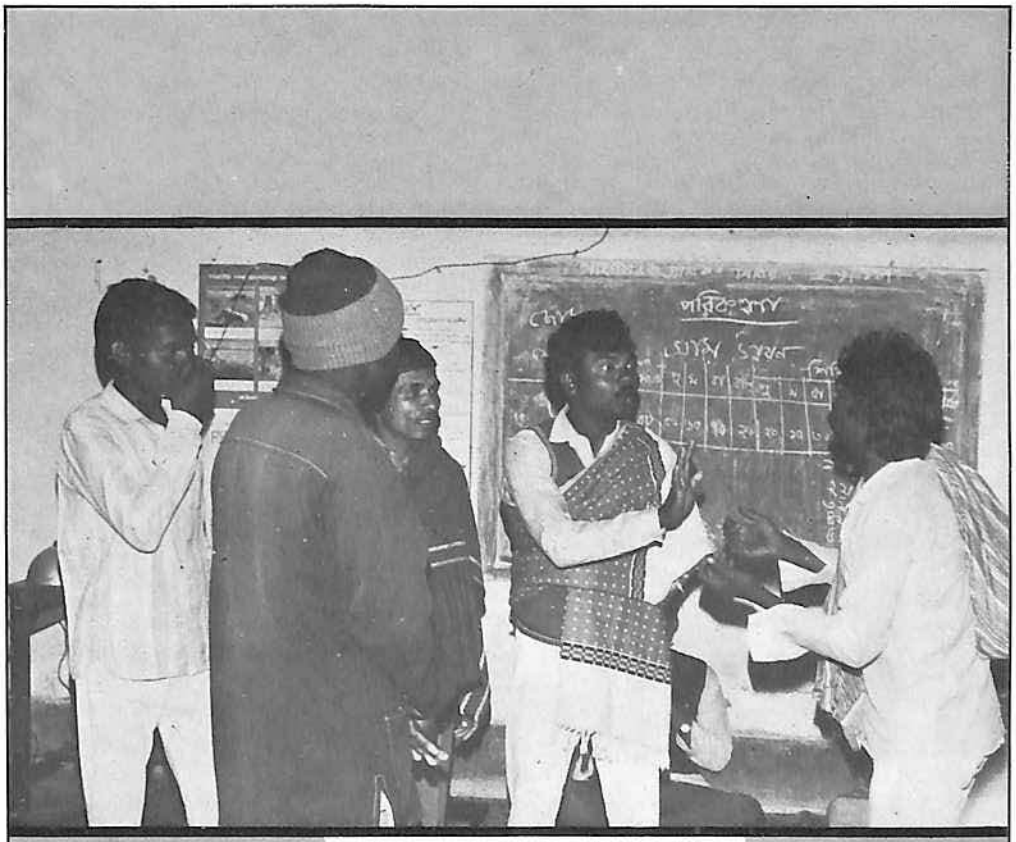
Another apex organisation,the Bheledanga Zonal Committee also had a fair amount of success. This organisation successfully negotiated with Government agencies to install 8 biogas plants in 3 hamlets. This committee was also successfully managing a community health programme at the end of 1990.

While the performance of all the apex organisations do not provide a very promising picture, the activities of the smaller groups were far more encouraging. Information available at the time of writing this report indicated that all the grain banks were functioning well. Moreover, one community started a new grain bank through voluntary contibutions. Similarly, functional groups of farmers, women and others were also functioning efficiently and two new women's groups also emerged during the year. While one of these groups was engaged in producing and marketing food items locally, the other group was engaged in producing traditional embroidery items. This group had also established links with other agencies to market its products. Members of 2 womens' groups engaged in sal leaf plate making have associated themselves with a larger organisation which will provide them working capital and marketing facilities.

A social foresty group in one of the tribal hamlets, has extended its area of plantation by 4.5 acres in collaboration with the Panchayat and the Forest Department. Groups in two hamlets which had planted "Arjun" trees a couple years ago have successfully negotiated with the Forest Department to undertake "tassar" silk worm rearing on these host plants. Plans have also been made to sponsor men and women from these communities to undergo training in tassar weaving, reeling and spinning. Yet another group planted Arjun trees on 7.5 acres of land.

The village committees also continued to operate 26 NFE centres. Till september '90, a part of the teachers honararium and other operational costs were met by the village committees. On LWS's withdrawal, the Government has taken over the NFE centres under its Mass Education Programme and Campaign for Eradication of Illiteracy.

In conclusion, it can be said that while LWS' involvement and subsequent withdrawal could well represent the end of an 'epoch', in many ways,. for the people in Jangal Mahal it could be a turning point signalling a new era of hope.



*Village youth at a planning excercise.*

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| A. Staff | Participants | |
|---|---|---|
| Type | Men | Women |
| Concepts of development, self-reliance and withdrawal strategies | 2 | 1 |
| NFE | 1 | -- |
| Media development | 1 | -- |
| Economic measures | 3 | -- |
| Women in social welfare | 1 | 2 |
| Community health | 1 | 3 |
| B. People | | |
| Type | Men | Women |
| Traditional birth attendants | -- | 11 |
| Community health | 7 | 5 |
| Organisational management | 14 | 7 |
| Drafting of memorandum of association | 53 | 7 |
| Annual planning and budgeting | 11 | 1 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| Type | Number of Centres | Students | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women | Boys | Girls |
| NFE | 26 | 129 | 51 | 130 | 118 |

IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit | Acres | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| Masonry channel with sluice gates | 1 | 54 | 25 |

TREE PLANTATION

| Activity | Acres | Saplings Distributed | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| Social forestry | 5 | 875 | 16 |
| Tassar Rearing | 8 | 9075 | 40 |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | No of Trainees | |
|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women |
| Bori (Pulse nugget) making | -- | 11 |
| Kantha stitching | -- | 20 |

INCOME GENERATION SCHEMES

| Type | Units | People | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Paddy Processing | 8 | 5 | 3 |

INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Units | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Bio-gas | 8 | 8 |

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos. | Members |
|---|---|---|
| Zonal committee | 5 | 152 |
| Village committee | 44 | 305 |
| Functional group | 45 | 299 |
| Youth club | 12 | 385 |
| Mahila samity | 4 | 53 |

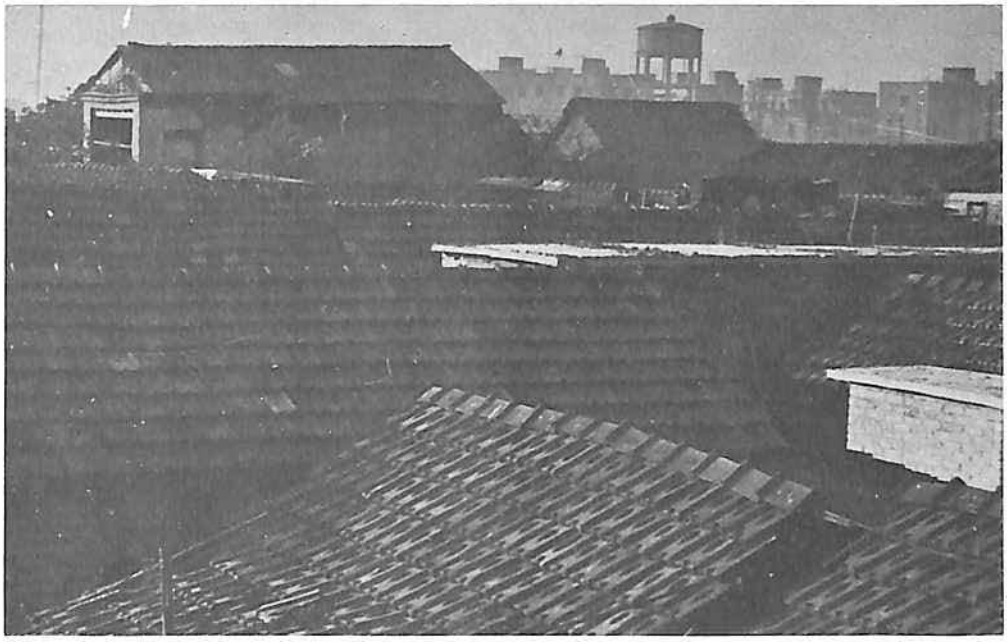
VILLAGE FUNDS

| Particulars | Amount (Rs.) |
|---|---|
| Fund Accumulated | 291,424 |
| Fund Recycled | 81,909 |

GRAIN BANKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of hamlets | 26 |
| Number of banks | 26 |
| Number of members | 1054 |
| Number of storage structures constructed by LWS | 13 |

# CALCUTTA PROJECT



Calcutta, the state capital of West Bengal, has over 10 million residents living within an area of 1450 sq.kms. It is , therefore, not at all astonishing that 1/3rd of Calcutta's population live in slums. Additionally, the stream of migrants entering the city is unending, giving rise to more slums, thereby making Calcutta one of the most densely populated cities of the country.

Living in abject poverty, with near to non-existent civic and sanitation facilities Calcutta slums are deplorable to say the least, posing therefore, a greater challenge to development.

Calcutta Project began its work in three sites in 1976 and presently extends its services to nearly 100,000 people. The project area covers, old slums at Entally (Central Calcutta), squatter colonies in Ultadanga (North - East Calcutta) and housing colonies in Salt Lake (East Calcutta) which were built by LWS India in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal to rehabilitate pavement dwellers and squatters. The project's development programmes emphasise collaborative efforts between local community based organisations (CBOs), women's organisations, youth clubs and government, semi-government and other social organisations.

In 1990, the area under the project was expanded to include four more sites, as planned earlier. This includes three slums within the Calcutta Municipal Corporation (CMC) and one squatter colony in South Dum Dum Municipality adjacent to the existing operational areas. Simultaneously, plans for withdrawing the project from some of the old operational areas, by transfering responsibilies to the local bodies and Government, were also made. In 1990, the project withdrew from two of its old operational areas, and handed over responsibilities to local organisations.

The project with its emphasis on education as a major means for attaining self reliance, has organised various non-formal and formal education programmes over the years, taking into account the needs and aspirations of different target groups. Abject poverty, the need to supplement family income and time constraints make learning in recognised formal schools impossible for children of pavement dwelling families. The project has provided financial support to four national voluntary organisations, Bengal Mass Education Society, Institute of Psychological and Educational research, Ram Krishna Vivekananda Mission and Prantik Jana Vikash Samity - all involved in non-formal education, to run pavement schools for these children.

The project operates two primary schools where children receive formal education as per government syllabus at the primary level.

Alongwith classroom education, the school initiates the development of the students' personality, character, knowledge of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation. They are also encouraged to take part in various extra curricular activities like music, dance, painting, drama and physical exercise.

The students passing out from these schools are thus well equipped to join other formal schools and continue their studies. For example, out of 124 children who passed out of these schools during 1989-90, 71 children have found admission in other schools.

Another primary school which was started by the project in the eastern part of its operational area, was taken over by the local people in April'90. The project has completely withdrawn its support and the local community organisations are running the school efficiently.

Community organisations have been supported to run non-formal education centres, for the illiterate adults and the unfortunate working children. Non Formal Education centres besides imparting literacy and numeracy impart functional literacy to adults and those beyond school going age, particularly

working children.

'Balwadis' or child day care centres is another example of the communities concern for their children. In an urban situation, these centres play a very important role especially where both parents often have to work to support the family, leaving the children to fend for themselves. The centres not only care for them, keeping health and nutrition in mind, but also provide basic training to pre school going age children.

To promote and develop the managerial capabilities of the people and the staff, the project organised several training, workshops and seminars. NFE and Balwadi teachers training camps were organised to raise awareness and improve quality of teaching. Special workshops and training programmes were organised for the benefit of women, while community health orientation training programmes were organised to create health awareness among the people. Project personnel also participated in training programmes organised by the Development Communication Unit to increase their effeciency and effectiveness.

Creation of employment opportunities has been identified as one of the means to economic self reliance. The unemployed and the under employed youth and women are given vocational training in various skills such as tailoring, motor car driving, radio and T.V. repairs, needle work etc. Sponsored by the project these literate and semiliterate youth and women, receive vocational training at professional training organisations like Karma Kutir, All India Women's Conference (AIWC), Nari Sikha Samity, Don Bosco Technical Institute, La-Martinere SEOMP Society and St.John's Ambulance Association. After completion of their training, some of the organisations absorb the trainees while others arrange job placements elsewhere.

In addition to these training programmes, employed artisans are also supported to upgrade their skills and technique by providing appropriate know how to further their business.

In order to determine the vocations which have higher employment and income potential, a study was conducted among 1550 persons, previously trained. The study revealed that of the 34 vocations, 10 vocations in particular, give high employment opportunities. Additionally, the study showed that of the 1550 persons about 50% are either employed or self employed and their average monthly income ranges upto Rs.1100/-.

To facilitate the income generation process, the community leaders in consultation with project personnel enlist the names of potential candidates for training as well as for financial assistance for starting businesses. Here, the base line data collected in the initial stage of the project helps the community organisations to identify the most deprived section of the community. After this, loans from banks and other funding agencies are organised. The project also extends working capital assistance as well as machinery and tools to the trained to establish them in self employment ventures. Community organisations ensure timely repayment of loans. Currently loan repayment rates range from 60% to 70%.

Community health service receives high priority among the project activities. Within health services, the major thrust is on preventive and promotive services. Naturally, pre natal and post natal care, prevention of malnutrition, immunisation and family planning measures are the major activities. In order to increase awareness on health, regular home visits, group discussions and mass meetings are conducted amongst people. Training programmes are conducted for health volunteers to improve their quality of

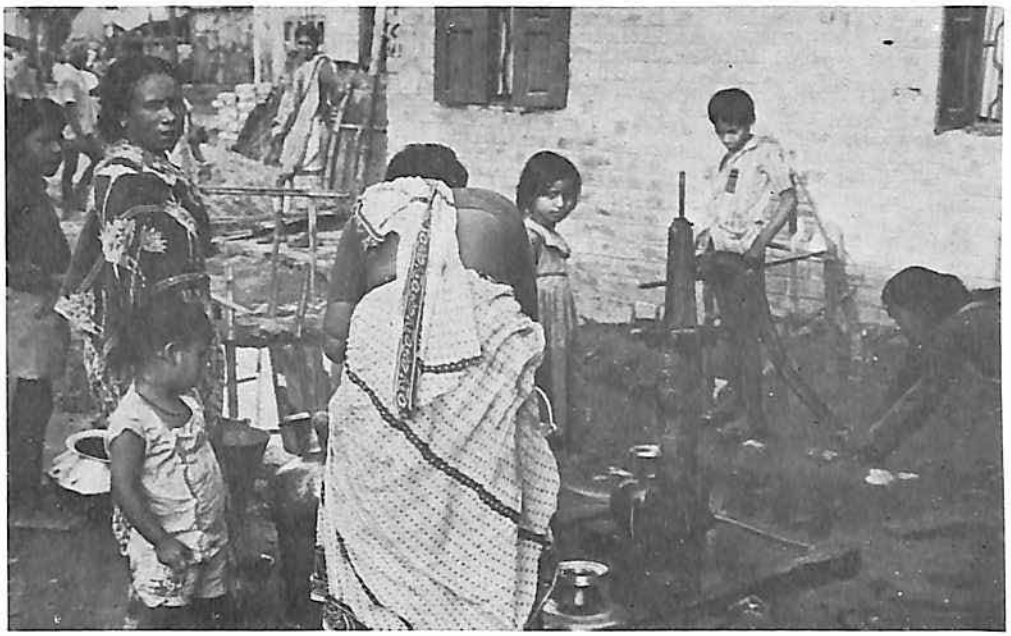
work. Students undergo regular health checkups in primary and pavement schools. Several tubewells have been sunk to provide safe drinking water.

Rehabilitation of the disabled is also organised in collaboration with Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCFC) and Calcutta Orthopaedics. During the year, disabled persons received aids like wheelchairs, tri-cycles, crutches etc. under the government schemes for aid to disabled persons, from Calcutta Orthopaedics.

Continuing it's efforts to introduce low cost sustainable health care services, the project established 2 homoeopathic dispensaries in one of the operational areas, in July 1990. Between July to December, the clinics treated 3260 cases and the cost of treatment was approximately Rs.2/- per case.

The project continued to operate a night shelter for about 140 persons i.e. 70 women and 70 men as a support for the homeless.

Despite these efforts, both LWS India and the people realise that not only will the tasks remain undone but that which is done, will also get undone, unless more of the Community member's and their Organisations take the initiative to better their own lot. Hence, while the project continues its efforts to motivate and involve communities in a process which is more holistic and therefore more complex, it will also have to help people discover the need to reestablish relationships and sense of worth about their own resources and their potential for recovery and regeneration.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Subject | No. of Trainees | |
|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women |
| Tailoring and machine embroidery | 1 | 47 |
| Garment stitching | -- | 160 |
| Needle work and "kantha" stitching | -- | 64 |
| Batik | -- | 28 |
| Block printing | -- | 7 |
| Bag stitching | -- | 10 |
| Knitting | -- | 3 |
| Nursing | -- | 23 |
| Radio repair and T.V. servicing | 25 | 10 |
| Electrical | 4 | -- |
| Air-condition and refrigeration | 1 | -- |
| Automobile engineering | 1 | -- |
| Two-wheeler repair | 3 | -- |
| Auto-rickshaw driving | 6 | -- |
| Motor driving | 53 | -- |

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

| Type | Nos. | Students | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Pavement schools | 43 | 922 | 962 |
| Formal schools | 2 | 233 | 342 |
| NFE centres | 33 | 192 | 375 |
| "Balwadis" | 11 | 211 | 202 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Type | Staff | | People | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Women in development | 8 | 8 | -- | 49 |
| NFE teachers | -- | -- | 2 | 12 |
| Balwadi teachers orientation | -- | -- | -- | 10 |
| Community health orientation | -- | -- | 8 | 8 |
| Community health worker | -- | -- | 1 | 9 |
| Traditional birth attendant | -- | -- | -- | 10 |
| Health staff | 6 | 6 | -- | -- |

INCOME GENERATION SCHEMES

| Type | Women |
|---|---|
| Garment stitching | 160 |
| Duckery | 1 |
| Animal husbandry | 2 |

BANK LOANS

| Amount (Rs) | People Benefited |
|---|---|
| 2,58,000 | 38 |

EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

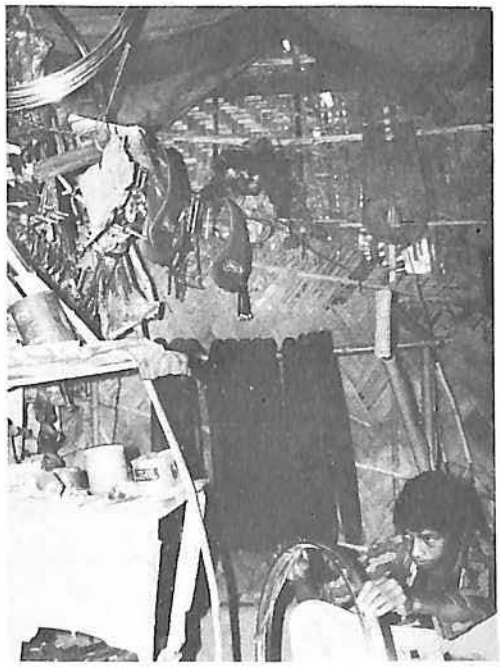
| Type | Completed | Students Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Primary schools | | |
| : Construction | 2 | 500 |
| : Renovation | 1 | 250 |
| Pavement school renovation | 2 | 70 |

DRINKING WATER

| Type | Units | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Tubewell sinking | 21 | 800 |

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

| Item | Units | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| | Completed | |
| Community centre/youth club | | |
| : Renovation | 2 | 4350 |
| Low cost sanitary latrine | 12 | 140 |
| Workshop shed | 1 | 8 |



COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos | Office Bearers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Representative committee | 46 | 441 | 30 |
| Youth club | 51 | 381 | 12 |
| Women's organisation | 7 | -- | 66 |
| Women's co-operative | 1 | -- | 8 |
| Women's self employment centre | 1 | 3 | 20 |

# ON SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In 1990, it's sixth year of operations, the On-site Improvement project began the process of withdrawal from the operational areas. Through regular meetings, workshops and training programmes the people have been prepared to assume responsibilities to continue and sustain the development process. The inhabitants of the two settlements are now capable of taking over the responsibility of continuing further development activities in the area, without assistance from LWS India.

Stable relationships established between the people, various local organisations and funding bodies have ensured steady financial assistance for future development works.

On request of the Government of West Bengal, LWS India initiated the On-site Improvement Project based on the concept of urban rejuvenation through maximum utilisation of existing resources, for the creation of a better environment. The project was initiated in 1985 in two settlements, namely Khudirampally in Ultadanga in the northern part of the city and Dasnagar in Howrah, an industrial township across the river Hooghly. The project was conceived as a collaborative effort of the people, government and semi government agencies, banks and social organisations.

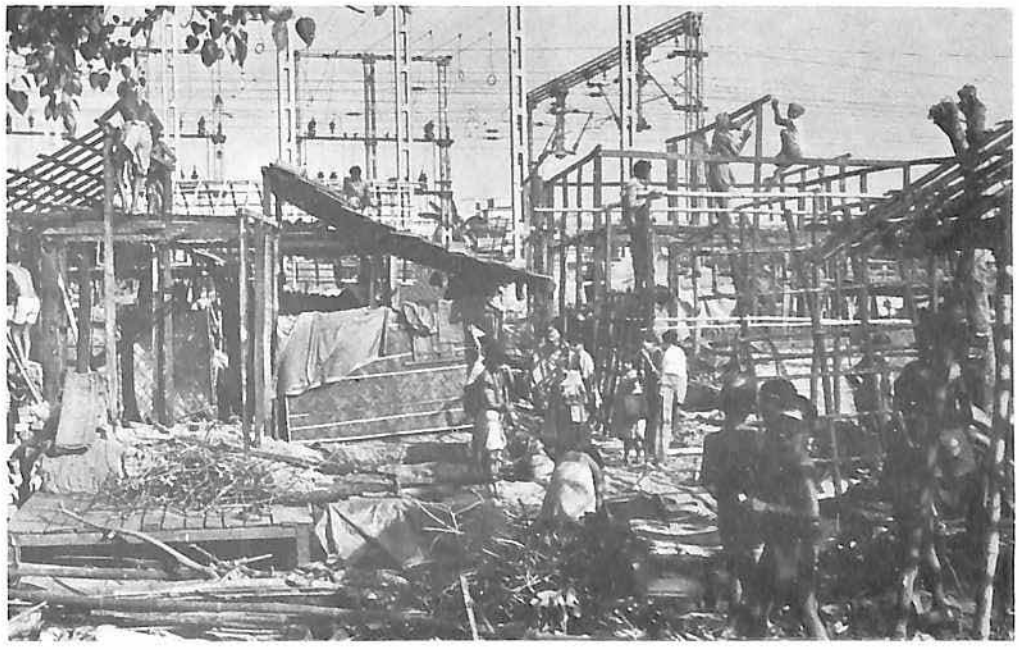
The project components included provision of adequate quantities of safe drinking water, construction of drains, sewers as well as sanitary latrines. Construction of roads, pathways and other community facilities have also been undertaken. Technical input for designing new layout plans to ensure optimum utilisation of land was an area of major emphasis. Vocational training programmes, schemes for increasing family incomes, community oriented health services and non-formal education facilities represented the other areas of activities.

Each family was assisted to identify its housing related needs and problems and develop shelter appropriate to such needs in accordance with their economic conditions. The new shelters while matching with the current situation of the people, would also have potential for growth and development to suit any future changes in needs. Thus each house reflects the economic condition of the family and its ability to mobilise resources.

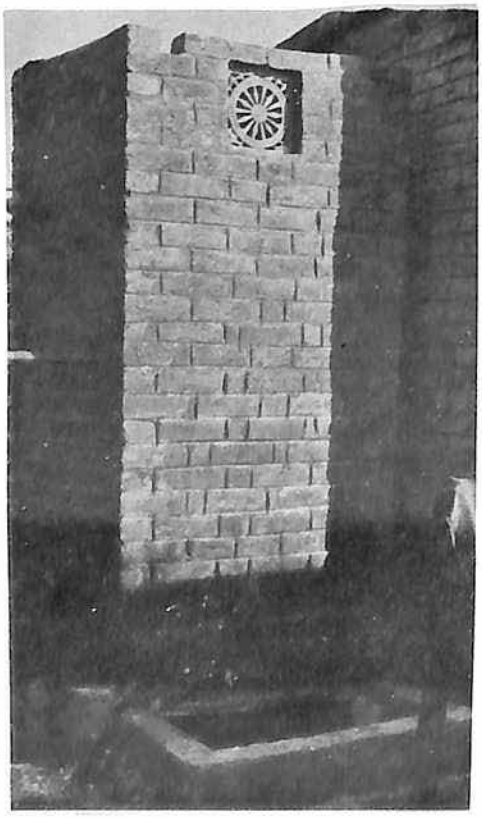
Since mid 1987, when the State Government, with the help of the communities and voluntary agencies including LWS, acquired the land and transfered ownership of the land to the residents, the people have been working towards improving their living conditions. To begin with, the communities actively collaborated with a renowned city planner, who rendered free consultancy services to drawup a physical layout plan. The lay out plan helped in the optimum utilisation and equal distribution of land among the residents. On finalisation of the plan, the residents began building permanent houses in accordance with the plans. Most of them have used the materials from their original houses, adding some more to make the "kuccha" houses longer lasting. Some of them, however, have managed to construct semi "pucca" houses with their own, as well as resources they have mobilised. Income generation activities promoted by LWS India contributed substantially towards increasing family incomes, which also helped in construction of better houses.

During the year, more of the low lying water-logged areas were reclaimed through land filling. While the project provided the debris for filling, the communities contributed the labour for filling and levelling. By end 1990, 220 families of Kshudirampally and 59 of Dasnagar had renovated and reconstructed houses as per the layout plans. Simultaneously, people also initiated development of other community infrastructure facilities.

Water logging, a perpetual problem in the settlements further worsens during



*Reconstruction of houses.*



*Sanitary latrine nearing completion.*

the monsoons, creating a most unhealthy environment. The 144 low cost latrines built during 1990, took the project one more step toward proper enviromental sanitation. Technical and design support was provided by Sulabh International, a voluntary organisation with expertise in environmental sanitation. Construction work for improving the drainage system also continued during 1990 for which the communities contributed labour. As per layout plans, more intra-settlement roads and pathways were also constructed. Two community centres were also built as per the plans, to facilitate various community based programmes.

In order to enable community health workers of the settlements to function idependently, the project conducted several training programmes. The health workers have since demonstrated their capability to take over and continue community health activities, after LWS India withdraws. Emphasis continued to be on pre and post-natal care of mothers, family planning, immunisation programmes, sanitation and checking malnutrition. Health awareness programmes were regularly carried out through home visits and group meetings by the community health workers.

Concerted efforts by the project to improve the health status of the communities have had remarkable impact.

Communities in both the areas have taken adequate measures for the continuation of the health programme in the post withdrawal phase. In Dasnagar the communities have negotiated with a local homeopathy doctor to provide curative services at nominal charges. Arrangements are being finalised with a local voluntary organisation to provide immunisation facilities and basic curative health care.

A few vocational training programmes for developing skills were organised during 1990. In Kshudirampally, 15 women were trained in tailoring and provided with sewing machines, with part contributions from them, to set up business. Some previously trained women in Dasnagar were also assisted to set up business. With assistance of the District Industries Centre, Howrah, the project conducted a course on coir mat and rope making this year. Banks and other resource agencies continued to extend working capital assistance to self employed persons.

The project achieved considerable success in promoting literacy in the target areas during its six years of operations. In Dasnagar, the management of the non-formal education centres for women operated with LWS India's assistance has been taken over by the community organisation. The same settlement also has a 'Balwadi'-day care centre for children, managed by the community's women, under the supervision of a local organisation. The young children of this center receive health and nutrition care besides elementary education. Such centres act as base-forming institutions for the childen who can graduate to formal schools from here. During 1990, of the 33 children who passed out of the centre 22 secured admission in local formal schools.

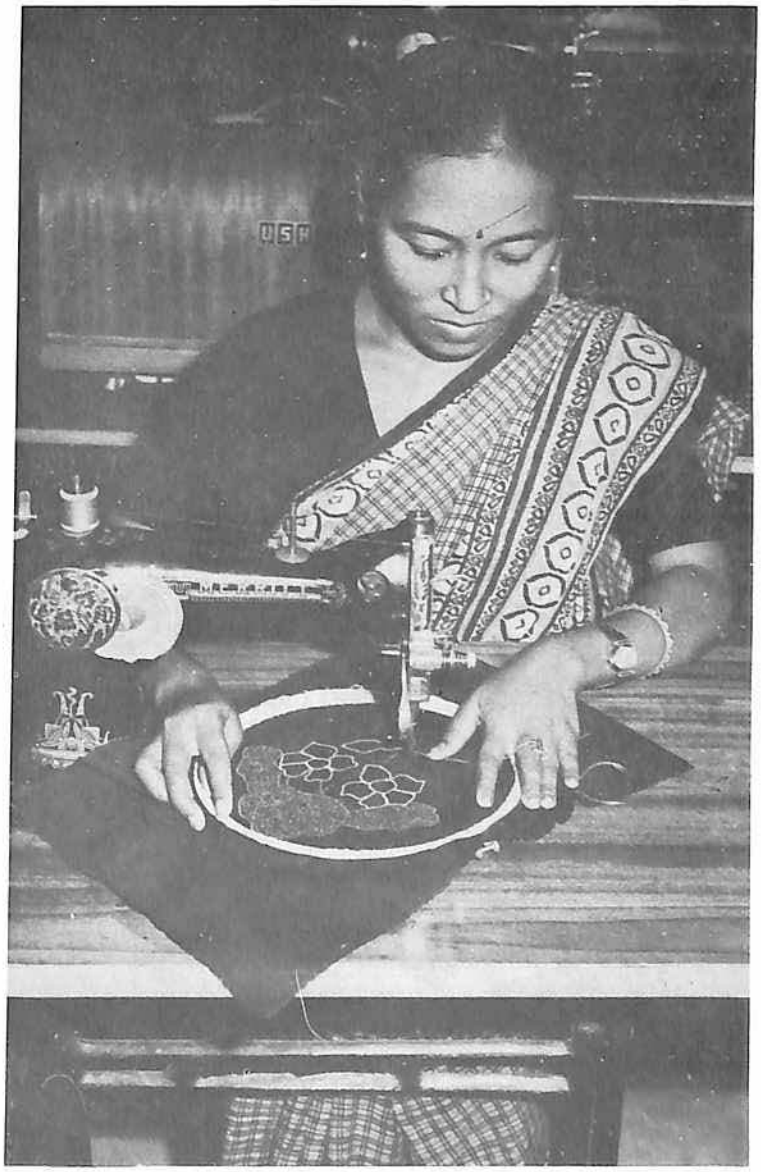
The increased awareness among the women and youth and their active participation in the developmental activities are encouraging signs. The benefits of adult education have begun to show as more parents are now sending their children to schools and look forward to a better future.

Community organisations in these settlements have displayed remarkable initiative and dynamism in solving the problems of the communities. These community organisations played a very major role in settling the disputes over land ownership. Even when the problems appeared insurmountable the community organisations never gave

up hope but tackled the problems with renewed vigour, till a solution in favour of the people was achieved. They have also played a key role in furthering the involvement of various resource agencies, particularly government agencies for the development of the area. By the end of 1990, these organisations had assumed complete responsibilities for coordination and management of the development activities. With these organisations of proven capability at the helm of affairs, the communities will not only be able to continue and sustain the development process initiated by LWS India, but will also be able to expand and improve upon it.

With its involvement in these communities coming to an end, LWS India has initiated a study to document the process of development in these communities and the experiences and lessons gained over the years. It is envisaged that certain components of the On-site Improvement activities will be incorporated into the ongoing Calcutta Project.

*Health Worker on her rounds.*



*Successfully self-employed.*

IMMUNISATION STATUS
A. DASNAGAR

| Immunisation | Years | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
| DPT-3 | 72% | 80% | 94% | 97% |
| POLIO-3 | 75% | 90% | 94% | 97% |
| BCG- | Nil | 30% | 94% | 67% |
| MEASLES | Nil | 26% | 44% | 47% |

B. KSHUDIRAMPALLY

| Immunisation | Years | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
| DPT-3 | 79% | 91% | 91% | 92% |
| POLIO-3 | 76% | 91% | 92% | 92% |
| BCG- | 5% | 26% | 42% | 47% |
| MEASLES | 6% | 25% | 33% | 40% |

Note : All percentage in relation to the total under-6 population

INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Units Completed | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Land reclamation | 3 | 387 |
| Drainage | 1900 rft | 387 |
| Road | 3832 rft | 387 |
| Community centre | 3 | 387 |
| Boundary wall | 1 | 39 |
| Sanitary latrines | 144 | 144 |
| School | 1 | 250 |
| Tubewell | 2 | 64 |

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

| Type | Nos | Members | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Colony Committee | 3 | 45 | 5 |
| Women's group | 1 | -- | 9 |
| Youth club | 2 | 34 | -- |
| Area development committee | 1 | 29 | 5 |

DIARRHOEAL DISEASEAS : DASNAGAR

| Year | Incidence |
|---|---|
| 1987 | 160 |
| 1988 | 106 |
| 1989 | 100 |
| 1990 | 31 |

DECLINE IN MALNUTRITION (Gr. II & III)
DASNAGAR

| Year | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| 1987 | 34% | 51% |
| 1988 | 19% | 45% |
| 1989 | 14% | 26% |
| 1990 | 4% | 13% |

FAMILY PLANNING COVERAGE

| Year | % of couples practising family planning | |
|---|---|---|
| | Dasnagar | Kshudirampally |
| 1987 | 55% | 47% |
| 1988 | 67% | 68% |
| 1989 | 85% | 72% |
| 1990 | 76% | 72% |

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

| Type | Centres | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-formal education | 2 | -- | 28 |
| Balwadis | 2 | 14 | 19 |

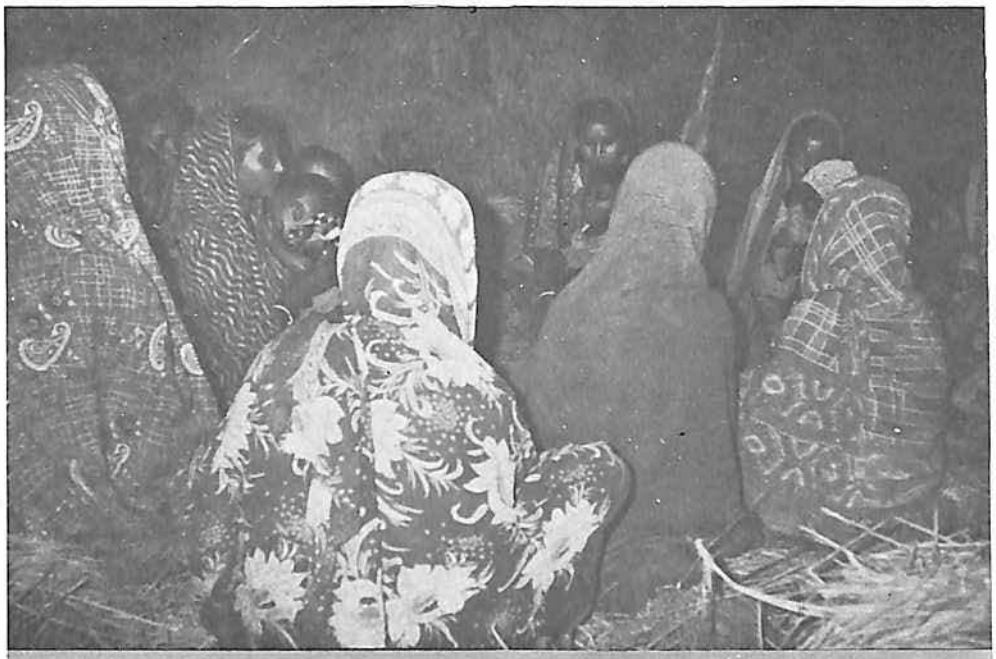
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

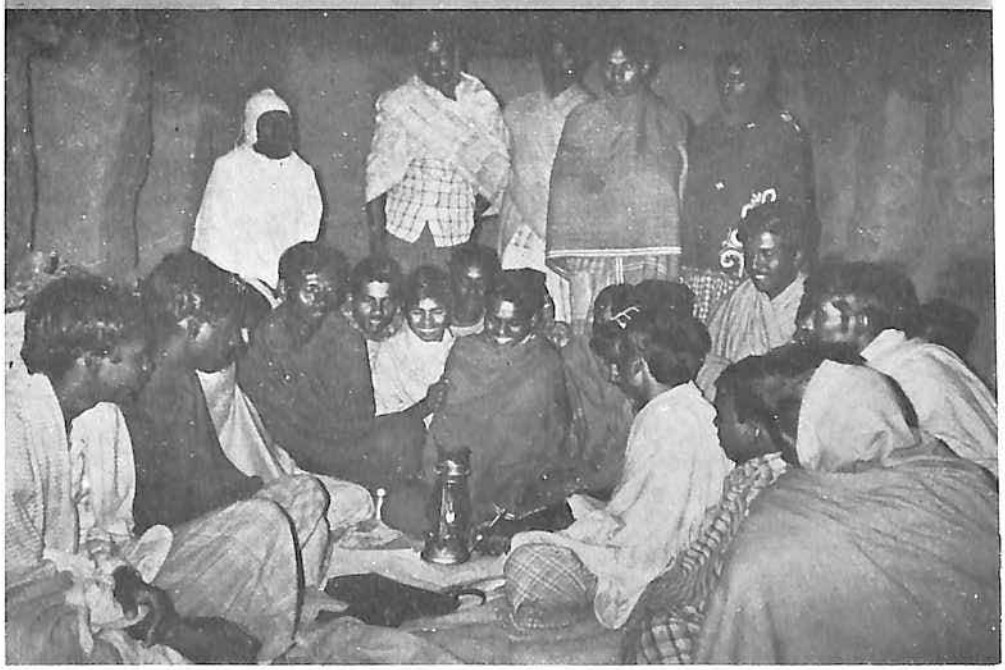
| Subject | Women |
|---|---|
| Garment stitching | 15 |
| Coir mat making | 1 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Type | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| NFE teachers | -- | 1 |
| Balwadi teachers | -- | 1 |
| Community health worker | 1 | 4 |

# MURSHIDABAD PROJECT





Murshidabad Project of LWS(India) started operations in 1975, to provide relief and rehabilitation to river erosion and flood affected landless and homeless families in 48 villages. Subsequently, development activities were initiated in the resettlement areas to integrate these groups into the prevailing social milieu. Withdrawal from these housing settlements commenced in 1984 and was completed by 1986. Simultaneously, new villages were taken up in the drought and flood prone Sagardighi block. Having undergone changes in the operational area and composition of user groups, changes in programme methodology and strategy were also affected. Consequently, a shift in emphasis from individual benefits to community based collective action became pronounced. At the end of 1990, the project through its multi- sectoral activities covered nearly 18,000 people, spread over 42 villages.

During the year, in accordance with the plans, the project withdrew from 3 villages, transferring responsibilities, in a phased manner to the people and their organisations. However, advisory and consultative services were provided to strengthen the capabilities of the people's organisations in order to help sustain the development efforts initiated by the project.

Over the years, a significant number of youth and women groups, functional and sectoral groups as well as village committees have been formed. These have grown in strength with more and more people realising the benefits of group action and collective functioning. The emergence of small autonomous groups like the functional and sectoral groups, which function in close collaboration with larger groups like the village committees, has helped to create conditions for balanced growth and development of the communities. All these groups were assisted to de-

velop planning, implementation and monitoring capabilities through training, workshops and the non-formal education process.

Efforts to strengthen the tripartite relationship between the project, the people and local resource agencies, also helped in further cementing ties, between the people and the agencies. For instance, local bank managers participated at village meetings to discuss and share information on loan facilities available with banks and identification of potential loanees. Similarly, Nehru Yuba Kendra, specialising in the field of vocational training indicated its willingness to sponsor some of the training programmes for people.

Community village funds, controlled and managed entirely by the people's organisations continued to grow as a result of greater emphasis on recovery of outstanding loans. During 1990, the loan recovery rates indicated a 52% rise, in comparison to 1989. Similarly, disbursement of loans to vulnerable groups for social and economic programmes showed an increase of 20% from the previous year.

Community grain banks continued to provide sustenance to the economically weaker sections, especially during lean seasons. An interesting feature has been the growing involvement of women in the overall management of these banks. During the year, 68 women joined 4 new banks that were formed.

While agriculture represents the major occupation in the largely agrarian district, lack of adequate irrigation facilities, out-dated practices and technology, results in poor productivity. Against such a backdrop, the project emphasised use of improved seeds, judicious use of fertilisers based on soil tests, need-based application of pesticides and most important, training and guidance prior to the main cropping seasons by the project's resource personnel. During the year, successful demonstrations of different crops as well as short duration drought-tolerant crops and composting of organic manure were undertaken, to offer farmers viable alternatives. In a step towards self-reliance, people successfully mobilised government resources by obtaining certified quality seeds and securing inputs for agriculture demonstrations and training.

In its efforts to develop irrigation facilities the project sunk 12 shallow tubewells, excavated 6 tanks and distributed 4 diesel pumps, to optimise use of the irrigation sources. These activities undertaken in 1990, provided irrigation for 128 acres benefitting 270 small and marginal farmers. Introduction of improved agricultural implements and tools such as threshers, sprayers, dusters etc. reduced drudgery and increased efficiency. As a result, the demand for such equipment has grown.

Together, such measures have helped usher in visible changes in agricultural practices and substantial increases in crop yields have been registered.

Women's organisations played a leading role in promoting kitchen gardens on homestead plots for the dual purpose of enriching children's diet and supplementing family incomes through sale of surplus produce. Two enterprising groups consisting of 14 women members seized this opportunity to set up a profitable venture of selling vegetables grown in their gardens. Such efforts by the women's organisations with the project's support, motivated 133 women to raise kitchen gardens.

A growing consciousness regarding degeneration of the soil and ecology was apparent. Tracts of barren land found unsuitable for agriculture was planted with assorted fruit bearing plants and land development measures helped retrieve 3 acres of cultivable land.

Education, considered a major building block for development, received a boost with the opening of 22 new NFE centres during the year. These centres, besides promoting literacy and numeracy also help develop people's knowledge and skills. Consequently, the quality of people's involvement and participation in the development efforts is enhanced. Constant monitoring of NFE centres by community organisations, ensured regularity in attendance by learners as well as lesser number of absentees and drop-outs.

During the year, specially designed training programmes were organised for the NFE instructors to help them upgrade their existing knowledge and teaching skills.

As part of the International Literacy Year celebrations, 79 local educated youth volunteers undertook a massive literacy programme of educating 177 illiterate members of their communities, through the "each-one-teach-one" method.

The drive was launched on 8th September, International Literacy Day, amidst a large gathering of people, government officials and project staff.

Efforts to transfer responsibilities to the people, witnessed two NFE centes being taken over by community organisations and operated without financial or any other assistance from the project. Training, workshop and seminars, both technical and non-technical in nature, were organised, for staff and user groups. Using participatory techniques, the programmes aimed at developing managerial capabilities and improving skills. Use of audio-visual media enhanced the process of effective communication as well as provided complementary support for dissemination of information and knowledge. Subjects covered included agriculture, community health, simple accounting and leadership development, to name a few.

In the sphere of income generation, the project continued it's efforts to assist the large number of landless and marginal farmer families to create, develop and help sustain primary as well as alternative sources of employ-

*Improved agriculture implements have reduced drudgery and increased efficiency.*

ment and income. Measures, undertaken during the year, included material assistance to families, for animal husbandry, paddy processing, petty business, sericulture, bamboo craft and pisciculture schemes. Technical inputs in the form of skill upgradation training were also provided in vocations such as papad making, tubewell repair and maintenance, improved poultry rearing, motor driving and tailoring.

Animal husbandry which has considerable potential for economic and social benefits was encouraged among women. With assistance of the Block Veterinary Surgeon, a training programme in livestock rearing was organised. As a follow-up to the training, cattle and poultry in 2 villages were vaccinated against pox.

Mothers and children continued to be the main focus of the primary health care programmes. The mother and child health care (MCH) activities included immunisation, care of malnourished children and pre, ante and post-natal care of women. Other activities included family planning advice to eligible couples and need based curative services. Homoeopathy, widely accepted for its cost effectiveness, was introduced as a curative service component. Two clinics were set up with help from the people's organisations and the response thus evoked, was extremely encouraging.

Upgrading the skills and knowledge of village health functionaries which include traditional birth attendants, traditional health practitioners and community health volunteers, represents another important facet of community health activities. Training on First-Aid was organised to educate the people to deal with minor injuries and emergencies in which 54 men and 107 women of the user groups participated.

To rehabilitate visually handicapped people an Eye Camp was organised in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society and a local youth club. Similarly, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Company helped to rehabilitate an orthopedically handicapped person.

The disadvantaged status of the girl child was the major theme of a workshop organised during 1990 - the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Year of the Girl Child. A large number of enthusiastic participants from the entire project area attended the workshop and interacted freely amongst themselves.

During the year, health activities were withdrawn from 2 intensive villages and the responsibilities transferred to the community health functionaries. Parameters for withdrawal designed by the PREM Unit and further developed by the project has been extremely beneficial for determining the capabilities of community organisations and for measuring future sustainability of programmes.

A school health programme launched during the year, encompassed activities such as health appraisal, immunisation, sanitation and nutrition education.

The project sunk 12 tubewells and repaired 16 others to provide safe drinking water to the communities. Simultaneously, 32 platforms were constructed to help prevent contamination of water and thereby reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases. In addition, 89 low cost latrines were constructed, an indication of it's growing acceptance among communities.

The growing popularity of smokeless ovens among women can be attributed to the common concern of creating a healthy and clean environment as well as relieving women from the ordeal of smokey open hearths. During the year, 50 low cost ovens were set up in collaboration with government agencies in the project's operational area. Two staff members were trained by experts from government agencies to help set up more smokeless ovens in the near future.

The need for development of decentralised energy systems based on locally available renewable resources for self-reliant and environmentally sound development in the rural areas,

has witnessed increasing popularity of bio-gas technology. Following negotiations with the District Industries Centre (DIC) and Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) a project area village was selected for development as a model energy village. DIC and KVIC have since initiated the process of securing loans from local banks, on behalf of the beneficiaries.

To improve communication facilities, lack of which is major reason for the economic stagnation of the area, the project completed 2.5 kms of fair-weather roads. Similarly, to facilitate inland water transport, provision of a boat benefitted nearly 400 people.

Other infrastructure activities undertaken during the year, included construction of a primary school to provide better educational opportunities to children of deprived classes. Construction of one community centre as well as renovation of a club building aimed at encouraging community oriented activities and cultural programmes.

Efforts to strengthen relationships with the Government and other local resource agencies yielded encouraging results. Government resources were mobilised for the community health, agriculture, environment and income generation sectors. In another instance, at the project's intervention, the Block Development Office sanctioned power connections to several beneficiaries belonging to the lower strata of society, under the government's 'LOK-DEEP' Rural Electrification Programme. Such collaborative efforts of the project, the government and non-government organisations as well as local community structures have contributed significantly in accelerating the development process.

VILLAGE FUNDS

| Particulars | Amount (Rs) |
|---|---|
| Amount accumulated | 1181,917 |
| Amount recycled | 242,425 |
| Amount recovered | 325,754 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Type | Staff | | People | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Agriculture | 23 | -- | 439 | 33 |
| Traditional birth attendants | -- | -- | -- | 11 |
| Traditional health practitioners | -- | -- | 16 | -- |
| Community health volunteers | -- | -- | 4 | 6 |
| First aid | 4 | 2 | 54 | 107 |
| Community health | -- | 5 | -- | -- |
| NEE teachers | -- | -- | 26 | 15 |
| Veterinary services | -- | -- | 58 | 39 |
| Leadership development | -- | -- | 24 | 6 |
| Girl child | 15 | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| Eradication of superstitions | 3 | 1 | 3 | -- |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Completed | | In-progress | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Papad making | -- | 5 | -- | -- |
| Pump repair | 21 | -- | -- | -- |
| Tubewell repair | 8 | -- | -- | -- |
| Poultry | 5 | -- | -- | -- |
| Motor driving | 1 | -- | 2 | -- |
| Tailoring | -- | 12 | 3 | 3 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| Type | Nos. | Student Strength | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women | Boys | Girls |
| NFE | 40 | 297 | 256 | 93 | 225 |

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos. | Members | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Village committee | 18 | 156 | 2 |
| Mahila samity | 14 | 2 | 321 |
| Sectoral group | 127 | 470 | 6 |
| Youth club | 2 | 70 | -- |
| Functional group | 76 | 1026 | 57 |

INCOME GENERATION SCHEMES
A. INDIVIDUAL

| Type | People Benefitted | |
|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women |
| Animal husbandry | 47 | 66 |
| Paddy processing | 56 | 1 |
| Petty business | 83 | 21 |
| Cart wheel and axle | 7 | -- |
| Sericulture | 3 | -- |
| Bamboo craft | -- | 9 |

AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE

| Type | Acres/Nos* | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Paddy | 405 | 524 |
| Wheat | 108 | 234 |
| Mustard | 217 | 344 |
| Pulses | 2 | 10 |
| Potato | 5 | 51 |
| Onion | 1 | 2 |
| Vegetables | 1 | 14 |
| Kitchen garden | -- | 133 |
| Compost | 14* | 14 |
| Green manure | 1 | 1 |
| Seed treatment | 95 | 71 |
| Draft animals | 38* | 23 |

AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT

| Item | Nos. | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Thresher | 37 | 864 |
| Sprayer | 20 | 572 |
| Duster | 3 | 120 |
| Spade | 4 | 17 |

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND TREE PLANTATION

| Type | Acres/Nos*. | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Land levelling | 3 | 6 |
| Lime application | 2 | 4 |
| Fruit plants | 882* | 215 |

EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Nos | Students Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Primary school construction | 1 | 110 |
| Slide & craddle | 3 | 350 |

B. GROUP

| Type | Nos | People Benefitted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Grain assistance | 10 | 35 | 133 |
| Pisciculture | 1 | 3 | -- |
| Tubewell repair | 1 | 3 | -- |

IRRIGATION FACILITIES

| Item | Nos. | Acres | Farmers |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shallow tubewells | 12 | 67 | 167 |
| Tank excavation | 6 | 5 | 17 |
| Pump sets | 4 | 56 | 86 |

COMMUNICATION

| Type | Nos | Kms | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| Road construction | -- | 2.5 | 1000 |
| Boat | 1 | -- | 378 |

OTHER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Nos. | | People Benefitted |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Completed | In-Progress | |
| Community centre | 1 | 1 | 116 |
| Club renovation | 1 | -- | 50 |

DRINKING WATER FACILITIES

| Type | Nos. | | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Completed | In-progress | |
| Tubewell sinking | 12 | -- | 464 |
| Tubewell re-sinking/repair | 16 | -- | 342 |
| Tubewell platform | 32 | 2 | 784 |

SANITATION

| Type | Nos. | | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Completed | In-progress | |
| Dugwell latrines | 89 | 11 | 89 |
| Smokless ovens | 50 | 10 | 50 |

# KULTALI PROJECT

Kultali Project located in the Sunderban region of the state of West Bengal operates in 18 underdeveloped villages of Kultali block. The entire Sunderban area crisscrossed by numerous rivers and streams and dotted with thick mangrove forests is extremely vulnerable to the vagaries of nature. The entire area is mono-cropped due to absence of irrigation facilities, excessive soil salinity, traditional agricultural practices and lack of capital resources. Dearth of natural resources and raw materials has retarded the growth of employment opportunities in the area. Further, the area is devoid of basic amenities like proper communication facilities, safe drinking water, health, education and proper drainage system. The landless and the small and marginal farmers are the worst sufferers and migrate to the nearest city of Calcutta for survival.

Stressing on the importance of people's participation, the project has witnessed considerable growth in the number of people's organisations in the form of village committees, mahila samities and functional groups. Village Committees formed in the earlier years, play a vital role in the entire planning and decision-making process. Common interest and functional groups complement the functioning of the village committees. During the year, 10 village committees were reconstituted by the people after critically reviewing the functioning of the existing committees with a view to reduce inefficiency and self-seeking intentions of some members of the committees. Subsequently, youth groups have taken over some of the responsibilities of the village committees. Efforts to involve the vulnerable and non-vocal segments of the population resulted in the emergence of several women's organisations. The emergence of women's groups indicate a growing awareness of the gender factor and the communities conviction in collective efforts. With support from DCU, the project established stable linkages with external resource agencies for resource mobilisation. In this respect, Madhusudanpur village committee negotiated with Catholic Relief Services (C.R.S) and Ramkrishna Ashram and organised a Mother and Child programme in the village entirely through their own efforts. The programme highlighted the importance of balanced diet to combat the problem of malnourishment among children. While C.R.S. provided nutritional supplements like bulgar wheat, soyamilk and vegetable oils to two hundred families, Ramkrishna Ashram offered expectant mothers ante-natal and post-natal care services at their clinic in Nimpith.

The concept of capital formation has taken firm roots, thereby further strengthening the communities faith and confidence in their own abilities. With help from the project, communities have undertaken the entire task of managing the village revolving funds. These steps have ensured appreciable increases in loan recovery rates during 1990. Simultaneously, more and more of the accumulated funds are being recycled for social and economic programmes for vulnerable groups.

In the absence of irrigation facilities, agriculture, which is the primary occupation of the people, is mainly dependant on monsoons. Despite adverse soil conditions, outdated agricultural practices and other impediments the project's endeavour to motivate farmers to adopt appropriate agricultural practices best suited in the area has resulted in considerable changes for the better. Demonstrations,"on-the-job" training and exposure visits, have equipped and encouraged farmers to grow high yielding varieties of crops on medium lands and adopt improved agricultural practices. Less water-intensive crops such as mustard, pulses, chillies and water-melon were promoted during the year. In comparison to the previous year, agricultural production in 1990 showed a considerable increase.

The "Pond-cum-Ridge" method, a tern coined for excavation and land filling technology introduced in the area a few years ago continues to grow in popularity. This technology has proved extremely effective for reducing soil salinity and increasing crop yields. The additional spin off, considered equally if not more important, is the creation of sweet water storage and irrigation source. Small tanks are dug

*Mothers are becoming increasingly eager to immunise their children.*

*Pond-Cum-Ridge method has reduced soil salinity and increased crop yeild.*

and the excavated sub-soil which is less saline in nature is used to raise the land level. While the excavated tank is used for both irrigation and pisciculture, the raised land facilitates cultivation of improved variety of crops. Low-cost water lifting devices are provided to optimise utilisation of the available water. The major impediment for wider adoption of the technology however, is the small land holdings of the people.

Despite its potential as a subsidiary source of income, pisciculture in homestead ponds remains neglected and undeveloped. Besides lack of capital and absence of forward and backward linkages, recurring floods and regular in-flow of saline water from creeks and channels are among the major hurdles for development of pisciculture. While it is well within the project's means to overcome the constraints of capital and linkages, it sought technical assistance from specialised institutions including government agencies, to explore ways and means to minimise the risk factor caused by floods and inflow of saline water. To encourage capture fishing, families residing along the river embankments were provided assistance in the form of shooting nets and gears. Altogether 50 families benefited from these activities.

Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres continued to impart basic literacy and numeracy as well as functional skills to illiterate adults, children and school drop-outs, to enable them to enhance their knowledge, skills and ability to participate meaningfully in the development process. "International Literacy Day" observed on September 8th highlighted the need for education and underscored the consequences of illiteracy. People of all age groups including women, enthusiastically participated in drawing and painting competitions and group discussions. Video and slide shows were also organised to mark the occasion. Sustained efforts were made throughout the year to strengthen the non-formal education process and

attract more learners. A new primer introduced after careful study and pre-tests evoked heartening response from the learners. Resource persons of the project visited these centres and conducted classes regularly on subjects such as agriculture, community health, environment, sanitation etc. with the purpose of transferring basic knowledge and skills to the learners. Exchange visit programmes for female learners aroused tremendous interest resulting in regular attendance at the NFE centres.

Another note worthy feature has been the increased involvement and participation of a larger number of women, who have been able to breakout of the shackles of social subordination. Such efforts are especially significant when viewed in light of the firm traditional and orthodox customs prevailing in the area.

State of disrepair and overcrowding often creates a depressing environment for learning. In it's efforts to improve the conditions, the project assisted communities to repair and renovate two school buildings. In order to ensure regular attendance, parents were motivated to send their children to school regularly. One community centre was also constructed to facilitate NFE classes as well as community health activities.

Training, workshop and seminars (TWS) which represents another facet of the education programme, elicited keen interest from the communities. Various types of training, workshops and seminars were organised during the year, in an effort to improve skills, introduce new and appropriate technology as well as enhance the capabilities of the user groups. Special training programmes on leadership, record- keeping and accounting were conducted for representatives of village committees, mahila samities and functional groups to strengthen their planning, implementation and monitoring capabilities. Other training programmes on subjects such as agriculture, nutrition, kitchen gardening, live-stock rearing, First Aid etc. were organised at the project level for the user groups.

Greater emphasis was laid on promoting the health of women, especially that of mothers and children. Immunisation and nutrition programmes were undertaken simultaneously to combat problems of malnutrition in under six children as well as to protect them against easily preventable diseases that endanger their lives. Curative services were also provided whenever needed. Responding to the vast curative needs of the area, the two Homoeopathic clinics established during the year rendered curative and referral services to 2318 patients. Enthused by its success, community organisations have since taken over running of the clinics. As a major step towards self reliance, the organisations have planned to bear 50% of the total implementation cost of running these centres, in the near future.

Periodic drives were undertaken to highlight the importance of nutritive diets to combat the high incidence of malnutrition among children. In collaboration with external agencies, nutritional supplements were distributed among children and mothers.

Training programmes organised on "Food, Nutrition and Kitchen gardening" encouraged more women to grow kitchen gardens on homestead plots. The mahila samities played a very significant role in educating women about the importance of kitchen gardens. It is mainly through their efforts that 218 families raised kitchen gardens.

Health educational activities were further intensified through home visits, group and mass meetings as well as other forms of inter-personal interaction and use of posters, charts, flash cards, video and slides. The impact of these efforts was evident from the mothers' eagerness to immunise their children. Despite initial hesitation and rejection on religious grounds by certain sections of the community, adoption of family planning measures by eligible couples was very encouraging.

Trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) are now taking greater pains in pre-natal, ante-natal and post-natal care. Similarly, community health volunteers continue to play an important role in creating awareness on health related matters among the people. Upgrading the skills of the local traditional health practitioners has yielded encouraging results as more and more people are now seeking the help and advice of these community based health personnel.

In collaboration with Vision Welfare Society, Garia, an Eye Camp was organised and 43 visually handicapped persons were rehabilitated. Enthusiastic participation by entire communities in organising and assisting made the camp a grand success.

Inadequacy of safe drinking water has been a major cause of widespread water borne diseases, especially among children and mothers. To help alleviate their health status, 4 tubewells were sunk to provide safe drinking water and improve hygiene and sanitary conditions.

As very few traditional skills and crafts remain in the area, assisting marginal farmers, landless families and women to undertake subsidiary occupations for supplementing meagre family incomes, continues to pose a major challenge. Income generation activities of varied nature such as weaving, tailoring, paddy processing, animal husbandry, foam-bag making, incense stick making etc. were promoted and implemented among individual families and groups. Efforts by communities to find viable alternatives to mitigate the sufferings of the impoverished, particularly the landless and marginal farmer families, led to formation of a grain bank by a group of 15 women in one village. With initial assistance from the project, this new grain bank is expected to help the communities meet their needs, especially during the lean periods.

Simultaneously, skill upgradation training programmes in different vocations were organised, primarily for women and unemployed youth. Successful trainees were assisted to establish links with local resource centres for financial assistance. Interestingly, a group of 15 women who had undergone training on improved incense stick making were linked up with the government's Development on Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) scheme, to enable them to receive financial and technical support. Similarly, two other women's groups which had undergone training in tailoring and foam-bag making were assisted under the Government's Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and District Rural Development Authority (DRDA) schemes.

Introduction of low-cost technology in the form of improved cooking stoves (smokeless chullahs) has relieved a large number of women from long cooking hours as well as health hazards caused by smoke. Two local non-governmental organisations, namely Ramkrishna Mission, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) specialising in the field of low-cost appropriate technology promotion in rural areas, assisted the project to set up improved cooking stoves in the project's operational area.

Growing environmental degradation and increasing awareness of environmental issues have made renewable sources of energy and the related energy devices more acceptable to the people. Bio-gas generation addresses the problems of fertiliser wastage, reduced value of animal excreta when used as fuel and environmental sanitation. Acting as a catalyst, the project enlisted participation of government and non-governmental organisations to install 5 bio-gas plants in the project area.

Nine sanitary latrines were constructed as a means of improving hygiene and sanitation. Other infrastructural activities undertaken during the year, include the completion of 1.21 kms of fair-weather roads, to improve communication facilities in the area.

To help foster community spirit as well as erradicate social barriers, village committees together with Mahila Samities organised an athletic meet in which participants from various age-groups including house-wives, participated in large numbers with great enthusiasm. Successful competitors were awarded prizes by the community organisations. As in other years, the drama competition organised during the year, elicited enthusiastic response from participants of the entire operational area.

Establishing and strengthening bonds of relationship with various government and non-government agencies received greater emphasis. During the year, people and their organisations were able to mobilise both financial and technical support from various government departments like, District Industries Centre (DIC), Cottage and small scale industries and other specialised non-governmental institutions such as Ramkrishna Mission and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nimpith, in various infrastructural and income generation activities. Collaboration and cooperation with these agencies over the years have gathered considerable momentum, which in the long-run will help to sustain the development efforts initiated by the project.

*Grain bank - people's hope during the lean periods.*

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Subject | Staff | | People | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Livestock rearing | 17 | 19 | 40 | 131 |
| Women in development | 9 | 3 | 2 | 31 |
| Nutrition | 2 | 5 | 2 | 34 |
| Traditional health practitioners | -- | -- | 14 | -- |
| Traditional birth attendant | -- | -- | -- | 17 |
| Media material | 12 | 4 | -- | -- |
| NFE teachers | 17 | 8 | 25 | 21 |
| Accounting and managerial skill | 5 | 6 | 37 | 36 |
| Planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation tecniques | -- | -- | 40 | 32 |
| Kitchen gardening | 5 | 12 | 9 | 61 |
| Agriculture | 9 | 5 | 57 | 1 |
| First aid | 4 | 9 | 20 | 42 |

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos | Members | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Village committee | 20 | 1521 | 4 |
| Mahila samity | 11 | -- | 488 |

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

| Type | Nos. | Student/people Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Library | 3 | -- |
| Sports materials | 4 | -- |
| School | 2 | 287 |
| Community centre | 1 | 27 |

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE AND EQUIPMENT

| Type | Acres/Nos.* | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Monsoon crops | | |
| - Local | 16 | 22 |
| - H.Y.V. | 54 | 98 |
| Winter crops | | |
| - paddy | 10 | 18 |
| - mustard | 10 | 29 |
| - potato | 2 | 15 |
| Sprayer | 1* | 20 |

PISCICULTURE

| Type | Nos. | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Homestead ponds | 19 | 19 |

KITCHEN GARDEN

| Type | Acres | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Kitchen gardens | 11 | 218 |

TREE PLANTATION

| Type | Saplings Distributed | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Social forestry | 616 | 200 |

BIO-GAS

| Type | Nos. | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Bio-gas | 5 | 55 |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| Foam bag making | 3 | 9 |
| Tailoring | -- | 11 |
| Pump set-repair & maintenance | 7 | -- |

INCOME GENERATION SCHEMES

| Type | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| Bamboo handicraft | 1 | -- |
| Capture fishing | 15 | 16 |
| Cycle repairing shop | 1 | -- |
| Watch repairing | -- | 10 |
| Goat rearing | 5 | 8 |
| Grain bank | -- | 15 |
| Grocery | 5 | -- |
| Paddy processing | 25 | 16 |
| Rickshaw van | 9 | -- |
| Petty business | 25 | 13 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| No. of Centres | Students | |
|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women |
| 25 | 180 | 195 |

VILLAGE FUND

| Amount Accumulated (Rs.) | Amount Recycled (Rs.) |
|---|---|
| 80,964 | 27,956 |

IRRIGATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

| Type | Nos./Acres | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Tanks | 5 | 5 |
| Renovation of pond | 11 | 11 |
| Pond-cum-ridge | 2 | 3 |
| Pump sets | 3 | 70 |

DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND COMMUNICATION

| Type | Units | Families |
|---|---|---|
| Tubewell | 4 | 120 |
| Latrines | 9 | 11 |
| Road construction | 1.21 km | 1633 |

# BIRBHUM PROJECT

Birbhum, like many other districts of West Bengal, consists of a number of small villages, most of them pervaded by poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. LWS India was first requested by the Government of West Bengal to operate in Birbhum after a severe drought hit the area in 1982. Following the emergency measures which included drinking water development and food for work activities, the district administration requested LWS India to initiate long term development efforts to help arrest the worsening situation as a result of the recurring drought.

Now, in its fourth year of operation, the LWS India's Birbhum project has started to yield prominent benefits. The emphasis laid on the participation of the people right from inception has succeeded in motivating them to take decisions and share responsibilities for their own lives and that of their neighbors.

The strategy of peoples participation has emerged from the conviction that the people are the masters of their own destiny and if given the opportunities they are quite capable of managing their own affairs.

The strategy also recognizes that the most important resource are the people so they occupy the pivotal role with LWS India playing a supportive one. Besides its own resources, LWS India together with the people has also mobilised various Government agencies to provide manpower and finance for the area.

The dividends accrued from such a strategy have been a greater feeling of confidence amongst the villagers, growing agricultural produce, increasing awareness among women, a steady upward movement in the literacy level coupled with a fairly considerable all-round development.

Experience has shown that resources and support can be less than effective if development does not take place in the hearts and minds of the people. Thus at LWS India, the attempt has been not to measure resources in terms of rupees and dollars, tubewells sunk, schools constructed but by the time spent with and by the people to discuss issues, plan collectively and solve problems.

Success and achievements are thus measured in the peoples responses to new ideas and their efforts in collective planning and implementation.

Right from the start it was felt that the people needed to breakout from the shell of apathy and inaction to take a closer look at their common needs and create a common platform to come together and work for the community. The project personnel laid stress on holistic views and individual oriented programmes were discouraged.

Seen from this angle of development, the most significant achievement in 1990 in Birbhum Project has been the formation of 'Village Development Clubs'. These clubs serve as a common platform for villagers to present and discuss their problems and look for solutions. Here the villagers also make their future developmental plans and decide on ways and means to mobilise the necessary resources.

The participatory approach has been quite well understood by the people. Most of the activities undertaken by the project in 1990 focussed on developing people's leadership and managerial capabilities. People of the area have also been more articulate about their needs and problems and about identifying solutions to solve them. Most of the village groups have also prepared perspective plans.

The villagers have already started approaching the panchayat and other Government bodies for assistance and have also learnt to use judiciously, the resources available.

A singularly encouraging development in the area this year has been the increased awareness among the village women, who have not only become executive committee members of the village development clubs but have also formed their own Mahila Samities to deal exclusively with the problems of women.

With increasing number of women coming forward to participate in the development process, women oriented

activities and programmes was but a natural outcome.

With assistance from the Central Silk Board, Government of India, three groups of women have been trained in tasar (silk) spinning and reeling. Most of the trained women have now begun working on their own with the raw materials provided by the existing local co-operative societies, who also take care of marketing of the finished products. The women's groups maintain the accounts themselves with guidance from the project.

Like many other places in the country, the Birbhum area is also beset with many serious ecological and environmental problems. Repeated droughts, depleting vegetation cover and soil erosion has ravaged the area.

The need of the hour was to arrest the process of further degradation and bring back the vegetation cover, tap and re-cycle the waste water, and create an all-round awareness among all age and gender groups regarding the environment.

The villagers, particularly the women folk, were motivated to plant fruit-bearing trees and raise kitchen gardens. In a few villages the women have also taken up vegetable cultivation. Waste water from wells is drained into the fields and fences have been put up to protect the plants from animals. Realisation of the importance of social forestry for maintaining the ecological balance has resulted in the plantation of 6000 seedlings - provided by the Government and Panchayat - in 1990 alone. The students of a local primary school were also involved in planting trees.

Various conservation and alternative fuel methods were implemented during the year. In this aspect the involvement of the women population was particularly significant because ultimately it is they who carry the burden of providing daily sustenance for the family.

Foraging for firewood is one of the major household chores undertaken by the women and children. With the depletion of the forests they had to walk miles to find firewood which took a lot of their time and energy. And then after collection they had to face the ordeal of a smoky open hearth which was detrimental to their health and that of their infants.

While smokeless 'chullahs' were introduced earlier, this year biogas plants were introduced in the area. With the Government bearing nearly 60% of the expenses and the villagers contributing 25% and the balance supplemented by the project, eight biogas plants were constructed during the first phase of the programme. The enthusiasm and interest the plants have generated is obvious from the pride and happiness on the women owner's faces and now every village household wishes to own one.

The high level of acidity in the soil along with scanty rainfall has been the cause of poor production of the district's main crop, paddy. The project, since its inception, has been emphasising on dryland farming among the villagers. With each passing year, large numbers of farmers have begun to accept the concept. Cultivation of maize and groundnut introduced in previous years have produced good results and have found wider acceptance among farmers. Mustard, green gram and other pulses, introduced this year have also proved successful.

In the near absence of ground water, farmers in the district have to rely on the monsoons for cultivation of their single major crop. However, even that is often not helpful as due to undulations in the land the rain water generally runs off. To combat this problem the project team has introduced the concept of micro-watershed planning and construction of water harvesting structures to collect the run off water. One such micro-watershed irrigation tank constructed during the year is expected to ensure a second crop of mustard on 5 acres of land and in case of monsoon failure, paddy on nearly 30 acres of land can be cultivated without being dependent on weather alone. While the people contributed 20% of the cost by providing free labour the other expenses were met by the project.

One of the basic needs expressed by the people themselves is education and training. This goes hand in glove with the strategy adopted in the area for the development process.

This year eight non-formal education (NFE) centres were run by the communities. Three of these centres were operated with the support of the panchayats. Mahila Samities independantly operated two centres for women. The NFE programme in addition to imparting literacy and numeracy, focuses on issues pertinent to peoples lives such as agriculture, animal husbandry, health and hygiene, environmental protection as well as village organisations and their management. During the year, 193 people participated in the NFE programme.

The project also organised a series of training programmes to develop the skill and knowledge of the user groups. Around 250 people received training in various subjects like community health, watershed management, improved agricultural practices, environmental protection, social forestry etc.

Encouraging formal education for the village children formed a major part of the teams's work. The team members during their visits to villages motivate the parents to send their children to school, impressing upon them the need for formal learning. Development work for strengthening the infrastructure facilities in the existing schools is underway. Two schools in two village panchayats have been renovated during the year.

For keeping alive and uplifting traditional folk culture and rural sports, the project helped the local people to organise

SEMINAR ON
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
OF RAJNAGAR BLOCK
ORGANISED BY-
IN COLLABORATION WITH

drama competitions and sports meets which had the entire project area participating. Here too, the women folk showed increasing interest and were represented by a drama group, comprising entirely of women.

A six member evaluation team consisting of experts from various national developmental organisations visited the project area to evaluate the work done so far and suggest new ideas. The team, in general, appreciated the progress of the project and recommended certain steps to strengthen the projects' growth. Major recommendations included initiation of systematic programme on health and education, measures to help the evolution of village development units, adoption of mini and micro-watershed approach, programmes for development of cottage and village industries and further efforts to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the project team. The recommendations have been studied and steps taken to implement them.

The approach and methodology adopted in Birbhum project has won appreciation from the District level officials, Panchayat and the Government. All Government bodies approached for help have readily agreed to assist in the process and programmes. LWS India has also been invited to several district level meetings and workshops in recognition of its work in the area.

The Birbhum project, today embodies an excellent example of constructive and meaningful tripartite cooperation. While the LWS India personnel have confined themselves to the supportive role of educators, the people and the local Government agencies have provided the major chunk of material resources and technical expertise. For instance, the Government agencies provided agriculture training and inputs for the health programme. The people on their part played the more significant role, as discerning users of the services provided.

Now aware of their needs and problems, but infused with growing self confidence to overcome them, people have displayed a vitality which not so long ago seemed all but lost.

The Birbhum project is thus emerging as a model of LWS India's new concept of development which relies on people's participation and mobilisation of external resources other than that of LWS India alone.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES

| Type | Nos. | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| NFE centre | 8 | 192 |
| Grain bank | 2 | 250 |
| Youth club repair | 1 | 42 |
| Well repair, tubewell fitting and net cover | 9 | 220 |
| Soak-pit | 1 | 45 |
| Smokeless ovens | 30 | 30 |
| Bundh | 1 | 33 |

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

| Type | Nos. | Members |
|---|---|---|
| Mahila samity | 1 | 26 |
| Village development club | 5 | 290 |
| Functional group | 2 | 10 |

HEALTH AND SANITATION

| Activity | PeopleBenefited |
|---|---|
| Immunization | 207 |
| Low-cost water filter | 81 |

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT AND LWS RESOURCES

| Activities | Nos./Acres. | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Mixed crop demonstration | 17 | 93 |
| Mustard demonstration | 3 | 12 |
| Kitchen gardening | 1 | 50 |
| Vegetable cultivation | 2 | 90 |
| Tree plantation | 6825 | 140 |
| Bio-gas | 8 | 8 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Subject | Nos. | People | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| NFE orientation | 2 | 21 | 10 |
| Dryland farming | 6 | 125 | -- |
| Kitchen gardening | 1 | 4 | 22 |
| Rabi crop | 2 | 34 | -- |
| Community health orientation | 2 | 19 | 25 |
| Tubewell repair | 1 | 20 | 1 |
| Low-cost filter | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Cycle repair | 1 | 2 | -- |
| Tassar spinning and reeling | 3 | 2 | 28 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

| Subject | Nos. | Staff | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Watershed management | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Participatory development | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Economic measures | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Agriculture | 1 | 2 | -- |
| Non-formal education | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Women and development | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Homeopathy cure | 1 | 1 | -- |

SPORTS AND CULTURE

| Activities | Nos. | Participants | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Sports | 1 | 116 | 73 |
| Educational exhibition | 1 | 300 | 200 |
| Drama | 1 | 96 | 16 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| Type | Number of Centres | Students | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women | Boys | Girls |
| NFE | 8 | 49 | 78 | 40 | 25 |

INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Nos. | People Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| High School repair | 1 | 365 |
| Hostel repair | 1 | 50 |

# BOLANGIR PROJECT

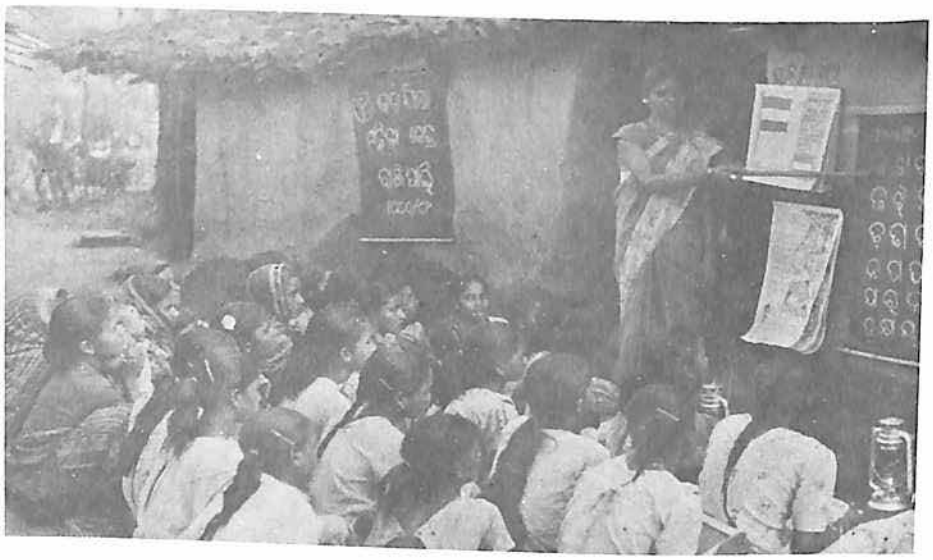
Bolangir and its adjoining district of Kalahandi in the eastern state of Orissa has been repeatedly in the news due to severe drought for as long as the past two decades. Situated in the north-western border of the state, the area is marked with rugged terrain of undulating plains and marginal forest cover in the Gandhamardan Range.

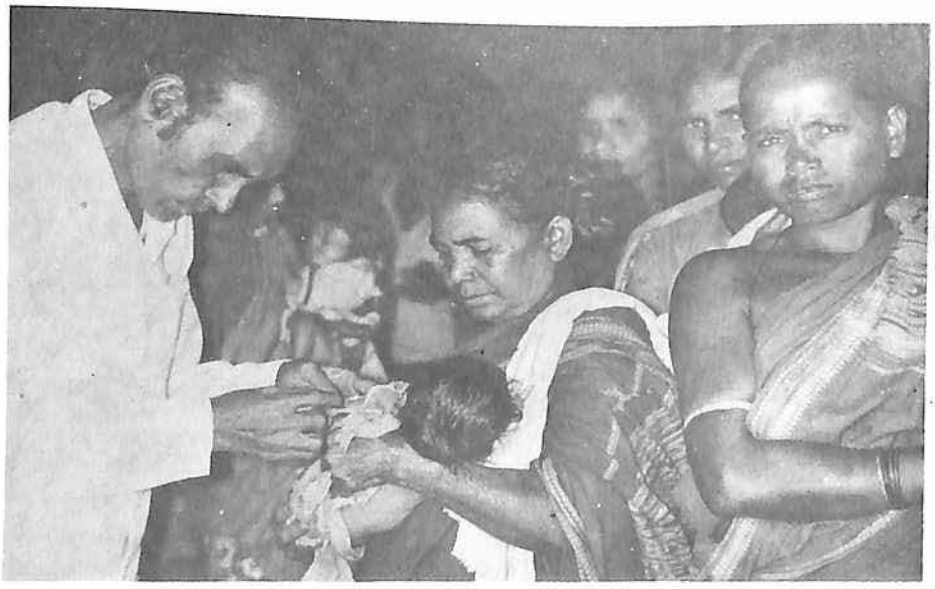
All the manifestations of backwardness are visible in this area. One-fifth of the forest cover in the district has been depleted by rampant deforestation. One of the major fallouts from this has been soil erosion which has transformed the agricultural land into dust bowls. Coupled with scanty rainfall and poor irrigation facilities the district has faced repeated crop failures.

Hard hit by these factors and with almost no industrial development, a majority of the population live below the poverty line. Along with the ecological imbalances and poor prospects of employment, the population is affected with malnutrition, ill health, scarcity of drinking water and lack of educational facilities. This has resulted in large scale deprivation and subsequent migration to other districts and states.

LWS India's personnel in consultation with the Government of Orissa visited and collected data of Khaprakhol and Bangamunda blocks in 1989. The project was initiated in April 1990 with the main focus on integrated area development. The project approach and methodology involves the tripartite involvement of the people, the local Government agencies and LWS India.

In pursuance of the above strategy, six trained social workers with the necessary orientation were posted in the area in April 1990. On the recommendation of the Blocks Development Officers of the two blocks, the team visited all villages in four village panchayats for informal surveys and first hand assesment of



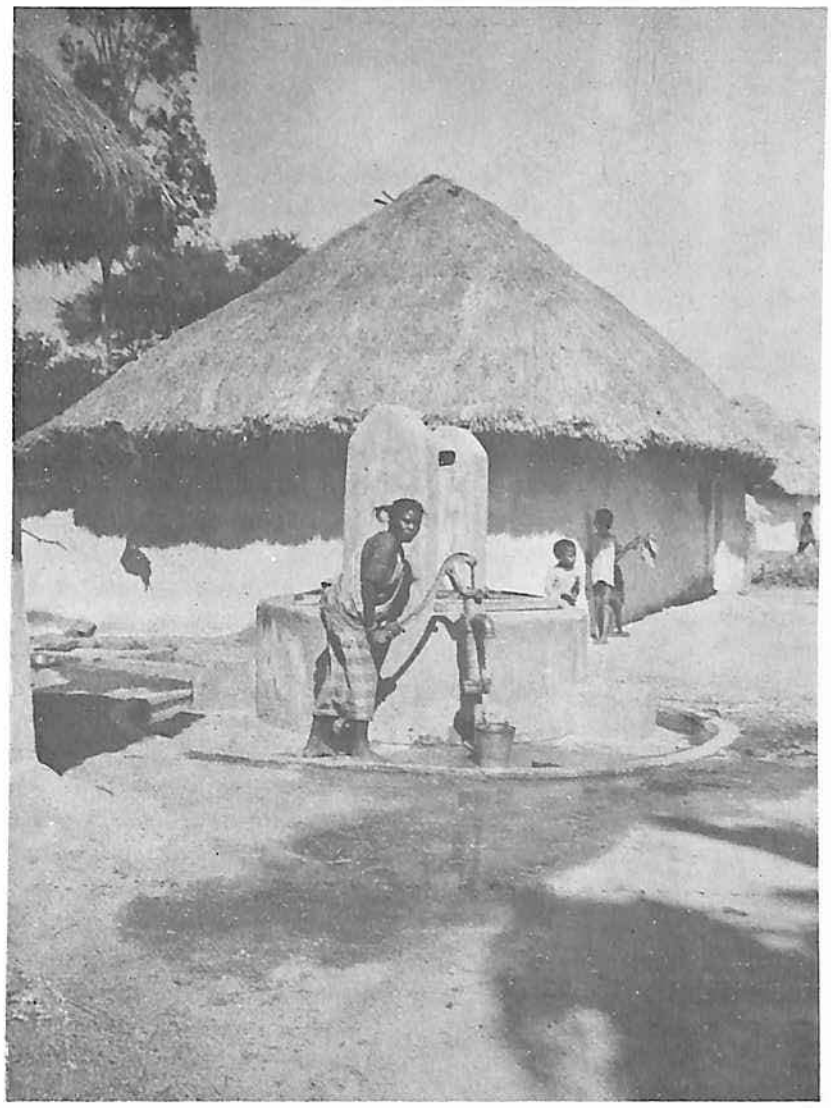


the situation there. Subsequently two clusters of 15 villages each in the two blocks were identified for immediate attention as they were the worst hit areas. The 30 villages selected as the initial project area are inhabited by families who are below the poverty line. The village population consists of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities.

The first two years have been designed as preparatory period when the project will play the supportive role of educator and facilitator for the development process by establishing a close rapport with the community, the Government and non-governmental agencies. During this period, through motivation, education and training the people and their representative bodies will be able to develop leadership qualities, identify their primary needs and plan, implement and monitor the programmes.

The development strategy here calls for the involvement of the local inhabitants and their different bodies. Emphasis is also laid on major participation by the women of the communities. The project personnel have initiated regular dialogues and group discussions with existing youth clubs, Mahila Samities and other bodies, to bring them on a common platform which can provide the future leadership and implement necessary action based on the decisions of the community. The aim is to create awareness and develop the power of shouldering responsibilities by the people themselves. So far 4150 men and women have participated in 45 meetings and 86 group discussions with great enthusiasm and inquisitiveness to learn about the future programmes and activities.

During these meetings and discussions with the communities and the local administrative bodies, certain priorities were sought to be identified keeping the needs of the area in mind. To combat the endemic poverty of the area,



programmes will be set in such a manner so that an all round development can take place in the community. The programmes will be planned with proper linkages between environmental upgradation, better health care, economic upliftment, education and training. On the environmental front, emphasis will be laid on promotion of scientific management of land and water to check soil erosion and degradation and increase in agricultural yields. Such an integrated approach is essential because it is accepted tha the problems in Bolangir have an environmental aspect. A degraded environment that hardly provides any agricultural output, employment and food has also its effect on public health causing illness and death.

Environmental awareness campaigns in Bolangir are designed towards social forestry and plantation drives to check soil erosion and promote conservation. Care will be taken to educate the farmers about improved and appropriate cropping practices and water conservation technology.

Apart from agriculture, project personnel are also stressing upon the possibilities of reviving traditional village industries and crafts, as well as organising programmes to develop skills, know-how and establish linkages for village enterprises.

The project has also begun the process of identifying the basic health needs of the communities in order to adopt certain programmes to improve the community health and hygiene. Special efforts are being made to educate people about the hazards of water-borne diseases through mass education. The project team, working in close collaboration with the Public Health Centre(PHC) medical personnel have succeeded in organising periodic immunisation camps in the villages. Earlier, immunisation was done by the PHC medical staff by moving from door to door. With the camps being organised on predetermined dates, the effeciency of the programme has increased and more and more villiages are availing of the facility.

Residents of the villages on the foot hills and near the reserve forests were found to be suffering from frequent bouts of malaria. In fact, the LWS India team discovered that the disease had claimed at least 10 lives. But, absence of any medical facilities near by and ignorance of the necessity of medical attention prevented the villagers from getting themselves treated. The area's PHC is situated 25 kms away. The villagers, therefore, normally rely on 'quacks' for the treatment of malaria. The project workers have since contacted all the patients suffering from the disease and motivated people to contact the Sub-Divisional Medical Officer for getting themselves treated.

Study of the problems afflicting the area provides evidence that education of the masses is imperative in order to eradicate the endemic poverty. If people of the community can understand and analyse their condition rationally through proper education, then they could possibly undertake their own development on a long-term basis. The education planning will, therefore, be done keeping in mind the different levels of need in the community.

The project team during dialogue with the people and local functionaries discovered that though every village in the operational area has a school and an adequate number of trained teachers, there were very few students. The illiterate villagers, unaware of the value of education and out of necessity employ their children in various income generating activities rather than send them to school. The project staff have now, with the help of the teachers started persuading the parents to send their children to school regularly.

The adult literacy programme that has been implemented in the Khaprakhol block by the State Government at present includes people between the age group of 15-35 years only. The project staff found that people above 35 years are also interested in learning if they are provided with such facilities. Hence efforts are being made to extend NFE facilities to people in this age group also. The Government NFE scheme however, does not cover the Bangomunda block, though the literacy percentage here is also quite low. The project team has approached the Government authorities for extending the programme to the Bangomunda block, particularly to the village panchayats covered by the LWS programme.

The project staff, during their village visits, found that social barriers and superstitions are rampant among the villagers. It was observed in the meetings that members of the scheduled caste and tribe avoid sitting with each other. Often tubewells are used only by a particular community in some villages and the lower classes prohibited from using them.

Age old practices and beliefs, are very much a part of the villagers' lives. Some of the farmers slay hens, goats and sheep on their fields to propitate spirits and ensure better yields.

Another section of the villagers hang bottles of country liquor from the roofs of their houses to keep away evil spirits.

To overcome the restraining forces and achieve upliftment of the villages, the project will have to gradually gain peoples confidence and assist the communities to see the harmful superstitions and beliefs in their proper respectives. Measures have been taken to eradicate social barriers through mass education so that a strong community feeling is created and a base for community action formed.

# DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT

In the age of information and communication, LWS India's Development Communication Unit (DCU), plays a pivotal role in providing communication services for development projects. As a necessary supportive and coordinating unit, DCU provides complementary and supplementary inputs and services in response to the LWS India's field operations and objectives. DCU's role has been increasing over the years, as efficient processing, dissemination and analysis of information has become critical for today's development process.

LWS India's development projects are presently located in the two eastern states of West Bengal and Orissa. These projects serve the needs of approximately 187,000 people in 233 villages and 5 urban sectors. The majority of the population belong to the scheduled castes and tribes, the predominant religious groups being Hindus and Muslims.

DCU's inputs and services focus primarily on four functionally linked areas viz., orientation and training for staff to enhance their capabilities and competence; establishing forward and backward linkages for income generation for the user groups; strengthening the non-formal education process which plays a very vital role in the people centred development process; and media and information support for staff and user groups to strengthen the communication process for bringing about socially desirable changes as well as to create conditions conducive for development.

A Co-ordination Committee comprising of senior LWS India personnel has been constituted to review the activities and advice the DCU periodically to ensure better coordination and higher levels of efficiency. DCU in consultation with the committee has designed a policy frame work, drawn up action plans and evolved guidelines to optimise the use of DCU's resources.

In consonance with the spirit of the International Literacy Year, DCU assisted the field projects to organise literacy drives. Of special significance was the mass literacy programme undertaken by Murshidabad project to educate 177 persons through the "each one teach one" method with the active participation and involvement of the local communities. During the year 210 NFE Centres were operating with a student strength of 3631 in the project areas. These centres besides imparting basic literacy skills also focused on awareness and capacity building to bring about positive attitudinal changes in the assisted population. September 8th was observed as the International Literacy Day by all the field projects. To mark the occassion the NFE students with assistance from the projects organised

various programme such as recitations, folk songs, "sit and draw" competitions and quiz competitions.

DCU's constant efforts to assist the project to improve the effectiveness and efficacy of the non-formal education programme achieved a break through during the year with the finalisation of Guidelines for NFE Programme. The new guidelines provide for a two year curriculum covering a basic syllabus for functional literacy and education on the basis of the availability of about 150 contact days per year. Responsibility for implementing the programme will be entrusted with the communities and their organisations to ensure continuance of the centres after the projects' withdraw. The new syllabus stresses on continuous followup by LWS resource personnel and village organisations.

During the year, refresher courses and orientation programme were organised for the instructors to provide them an opportunity to update their knowledge and skills as well as to help them perceive their role in the development process. Community leaders and representatives of community organisations were also invited to participate in these programmes to help them identify, define and strengthen their role in the NFE process. Simultaneously, training programme were also organised for the staff members on the new guidelines with a view to prepare them for the new tasks and challenges, in which 16 staff members from different projects participated.

With the increased participation of women in the NFE programme, DCU has produced booklets on social forestry, hygiene, livestock rearing and beekeeping, subjects which interest women. Three other booklets have been developed on low cost housing, folk fairs and various festivals for the benefit of the neo-literates. Suitable primers catering to the needs of different age groups were also designed and distributed to the projects.

Training of staff, user groups and their representatives received greater attention during 1990. Emphasis continued to be laid on participatory methods of training, using new and appropriate techniques. As a result, the process of assessing and analysing the needs of the trainees and providing necessary feedback and followup support to ensure effectiveness of the training process has improved. Need based specialised training programmes were organised for the staff to help them develop a better understanding of the development process in the context of the goals set by LWS India as well as to enhance their capabilities as educators and facilitators.

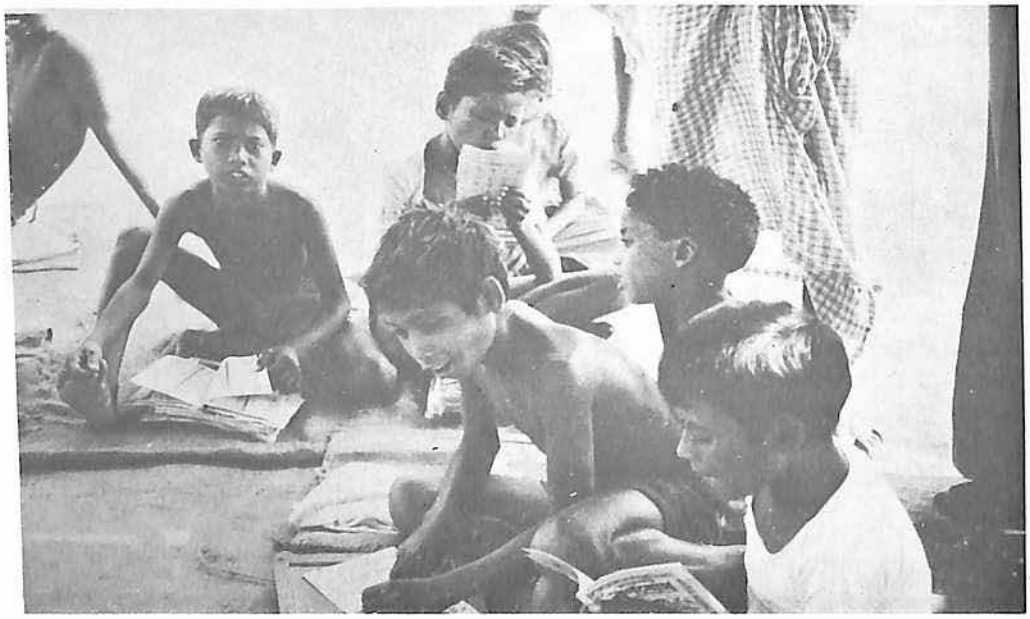
Besides in-house training, DCU also organised two orientation programme for the Bolangir project staff and other new recruits of LWS India to enable them to understand the organisational goals and perform their tasks with greater efficiency and effectiveness at each stage.

Training, workshops and seminars were also organised on the basis of the needs identified by the projects for the user groups to improve their technical and managerial capabilities to ensure that a greater degree of self confidence and self-reliance grow among the people. This has been considered important to enable them to sustain and nurture the development activities initiated by the projects.

During the year, a two tier comprehensive plan for training in 1991 was drawn up after intense consultations among field projects, DCU and other central supportive units. The plan has taken an integrated view of the organisational training needs.

Lack of proper skills, organisational and managerial capabilities and lack of capital resources are the major obtstacles preventing the development and acceleration of income generation schemes. Against this backdrop, the DCU attempted to assist the economic activities of the projects by bridging the gaps related to craft designs, marketing outlets, product diversification and the use of locally available resources with the help of technical, promotional and marketing agencies both from the Government and cooperative sectors. The unit also applied itself to develop and upgrade schemes based on appropriate technology with a view to generate additional employment and income opportunities, for the assisted population.

These support programmes, initiated in



1989, were continued during the year with a view to provide guidance for designs and improve market outlets for activities such as leather footwear manufacturing, household poultry, coir mat making and pottery. Technical and promotional agencies such as the Regional Design Centre, Coir Training Centre, State Poultry Farm, and the Cottage and Small Industries Directorate extended support through inter-active dialogues and by organising study visits to farms, industrial units, training and crafts design centres. These activities have helped the projects to establish the much needed backward and forward linkages as well as to help identify appropriate training programmes for potential trainees.

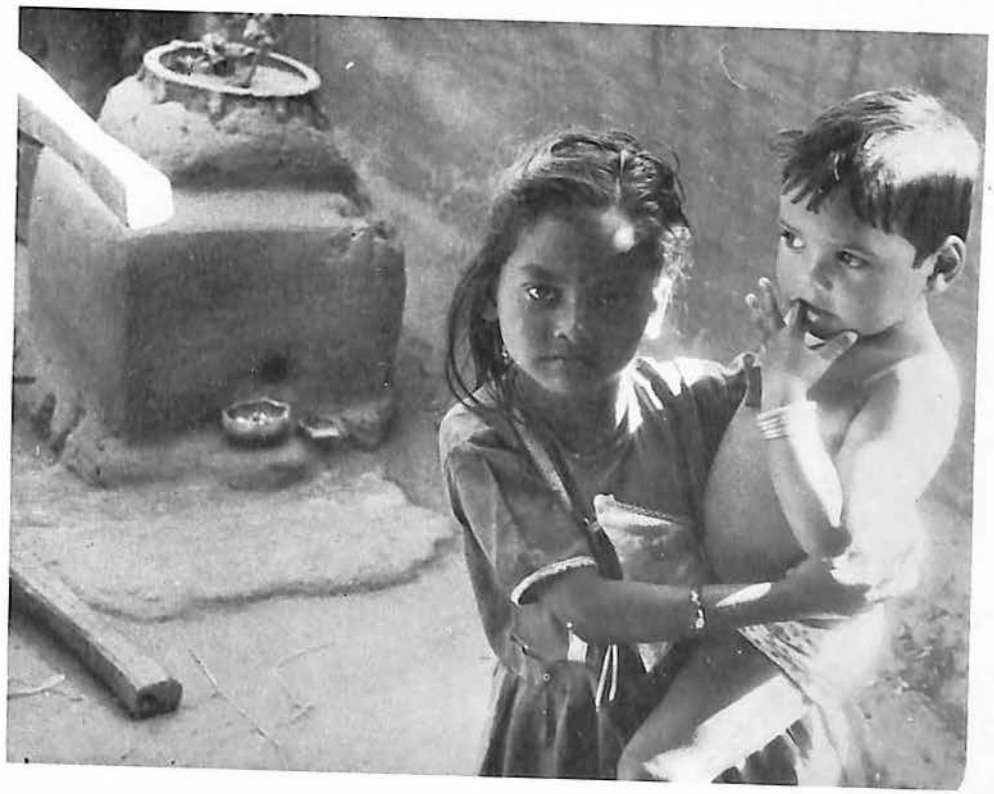
To facilitate the use of non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-gas which has an immense possibility for development in some of the project areas, DCU collaborated with the State and Central Government agencies during the year to draw up long term plans and identify potential users in the project areas.

Production, procurement and distribution of appropriate media materials continued to receive close attention. Such tools are considered imperative for transmitting information to accelerate income generation schemes, non-formal education process, agriculture and health care services. These tools are also used to focus attention on various social issues to broaden the horizons of thought and options for actions of communities as well as individuals. In order to strengthen people's involvement in the communication process, DCU promoted the integrated use of traditional media such as puppetry, role play, drama, mime as well as sophisticated medium like audio, audio-visual aids and video.

A number of training programmes and workshops were organised for the staff to develop a better understanding of the use and importance of of various media materials. Efforts were also directed towards developing low-cost indigenous media materials based on local issues and social problems.

"Aalo" the trilingual quarterly journal in Bengali, Santhali and Oriya continued to provide the neo-literates opportunities to share experiences and gain knowledge. The internal monthly news letter in English which focusses primarily on developmental issues helps the staff to share news and views. The print media which also includes charts, posters, flash cards and other educational aids were procured from various external agencies and distributed to the projects to facilitate the functioning of NFE Centres as well as for conducting training, workshops and seminars.

DCU continued to work closely with Government and non-government agencies and institutions as well as with local and national voluntary agencies. The reciprocal nature of the relationship enables DCU to obtain technical inputs for conducting training progammes as well as for preparing audio-visual aids. For instance, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith, provided the infrastructural and faculty facilities for the agricultural and allied training programme. Similarly, Chitrabani and Weaker Sections Integrated Development Agency (WIDA) assisted in the procurement and production of media materials. Interaction with these organisations and institutions has helped to increase the depth of understanding and provide inputs for qualitative improvement of the development process.

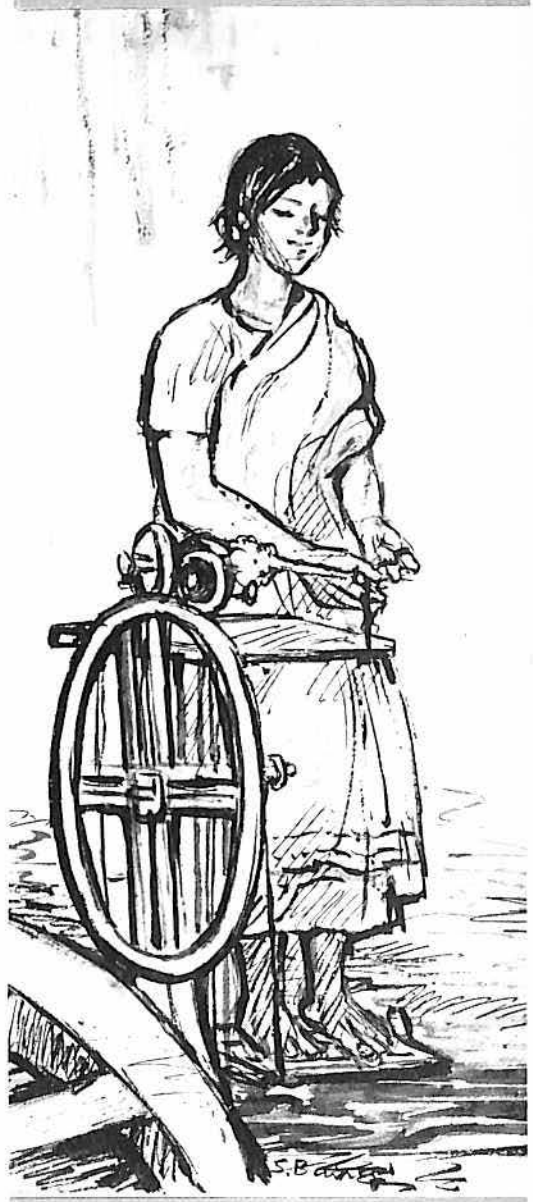


TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

| Subject | Nos. Arranged | Staff | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women |
| Concept of development, self reliance and withdrawal strategies | 2 | 34 | 8 |
| Non-formal education | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Leadership and organisational building at community level | 2 | 29 | 10 |
| Economic measures | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| Community level planning, implementation and monitoring | 1 | 16 | 5 |
| Rural development | | | |
| Agriculture | 2 | 29 | 7 |
| Media deveopment | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Socio-economic analysis | 1 | 14 | 5 |
| Orientation for new recruits | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Use of media materials | 4 | 36 | 14 |
| NFE primers and guidelines | 1 | 16 | 3 |
| Guiding principles | 1 | 16 | 2 |

PROJECT WISE BREAKUP OF NFE CENTRES

| Project | No. of centres | Men | Women | Boys | Girls |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WHAT | 76 | 706 | 384 | 190 | 90 |
| KULTALI | 25 | 180 | 195 | -- | -- |
| BIRBHUM | 8 | 49 | 78 | 40 | 25 |
| CALCUTTA | 33 | 39 | 188 | 153 | 187 |
| ONSITE | 2 | -- | 28 | -- | -- |
| BURDWAN | 26 | 129 | 51 | 130 | 118 |
| MURSHIDABAD | 40 | 297 | 256 | 93 | 225 |



# COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Community Health Services is a crucial component of all LWS India integrated development projects, catering to the rural and urban underprivileged communities. Illiteracy, poverty, a rapidly degrading environment, explosive population growth, inadequate health facilities, poor communication network and superstitions have compounded the health scene to produce high morbidity and mortality. The existing health facilities had earlier adopted a hospital based approach often at the cost of providing comprehensive primary health care. Rural health facilities have often suffered due to paucity of funds and inadequacy of professional expertise. Moreover the emphasis on curative aspect has led to the neglect of preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health care.

The draft Health Policy document was finalised and circulated to the projects so as to act as a tool of reference and guidance. It is centered around the goal of 'to assist the underprivileged communities in improving their status of health'. The holistic approach of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care has been adopted. Based on WHO and National Health Policy and in keeping with the overall LWS India cenceptual framework of self-reliance, the strategy formulated is "Primary Health Care managed by the Community". Attempts will be directed towards creating or strengthening a locally accessible, adoptable, acceptable and affordable health care system within the communities. This will necessitate a shift from a community oriented to a community based methodology. Operationally the aim is to develop a health care system planned, implemented and managed by the communities. Activities are designed keeping in view the vulnerable segments of the communities, focussing on the existing public health problems.

The children and mothers not only constitute majority of the population but also are more prone towards disease, disability and death. Hence, care of mothers and under-6 years of age children is of paramount importance. The activities include immunisation against the six killer diseases - Polio, Measles, Tuberculosis, Diptheria, Whooping cough and Tetanus, encouraging the use of colostrum and breast feeding, instilling proper and timely weaning practices, regular growth monitoring and propagating salt sugar solution (S.S.S) as a method of oral rehydration therapy to combat the diarrhoea menace. Moreover, home management of acute respiratory tract infections (A.R.I), another common killer amongst children is also being emphasied. Considerable progress has been achieved in the field of immunisation in various projects, which was brought to light from an assesment this year. The percentage of fully immunised children within the age group of 1-2 years has increased from 2% in 1987 to 31% at the end of 1989. Despite concerted efforts, malnutrition amongst the under-6 still shows a high prevalence rate especially among the female children.

The School Health Programme initiated last year in a few projects planned to cover the primary schools, non-formal education centres for children and pavement schools, was extended to other projects. The children of these schools who are in their most formative stage of growth and development receive services such as health appraisal, health education, immunisation, sanitation and nutrition education. Presently the programme is being carried out in 50 non-formal education centres and 15 primary schools covering 2281 children.

The next important segment of the community is women, especially the mothers, whose influence on the health

of the children is immense. Moreover they are victims of social negligence and apathy which in turn render them prone to frequent illness. Maternal mortality continues to be high, while anaemia which leads to low birth weight babies is still widespread. The three facets of Maternal Care are Ante-natal, Natal and Post-natal care. The functional components of Ante-natal care are early detection of pregnancy, detection, management and referral of the high risk mothers, regular health check-ups, immunisation, nutrition advice on cooking practices and locally available food stuffs and supplements. The involvement of trained traditional birth-attendants using asceptic methods and timely referral has improved the quality of natal care, thus averting many a catastrophy. Post-natal care through regular health check-ups, nutrition and hygiene advice and family planning counselling ensures early restoration of health.

In India it is said that the problem of environment is essentially in 3'P's i.e. Poverty, Population and Pollution. The fruits of development are crushed under the burgeoning population. Hence family planning through the promotion of scientific methods of contraception to propagate the "small family norm" assumes a high place in the priority ladder. Weaning the communities away from child marriages and inculcating in them the concept of birth spacing is persued vigorously. Encouragement of certain sanitation measures at community level such as proper provision, collection, storage and usage of safe water for domestic use, usage of sanitary latrines and soakpits, smokeless stoves, proper garbage and litter disposal help in the management of communicable diseases and pollution.

According to a 1976 WHO estimate there are about 75 million disabled persons in India. In a survey conducted in 1988 in LWS India intensive operational areas, 252 cases of disabled persons were detected. In 1989, plans for rehabilitating the disabled, psychologically and vocationally were

*A trained TBA.*

drawn up and accordingly a few cases were referred to local government health institutions to initiate rehabilitation measures. This year 10 orthopaedically disabled persons were followed up by LWS India and they received prosthetic aids such as Wheelchairs & Triwheelers under "Assistance to Disabled Persons" (ADIP)scheme of Government of India with grants from Artificial Limb Manufacturing Coroporation of India (ALIMCO). For the visually impaired, two eye camps were organised, one at Burdwan Project and the other at Kultali Project with the collaboration of Vision Welfare Society. Initially, screening camps were organised wherein the matured cataract cases were identified and the others either treated or referred elsewhere. The cataract cases were then investigated for their suitability for undergoing operations. A week long camp was organised in each project and a total of 71 persons operated on. After receiving proper post-operative care they were either provided with spectacles free of cost or are on the waiting list. Simultaneously, vocational rehabilitation measures for the disabled were also initiated this year. In the Calcutta Programme one person underwent a short term enterpreneurship development training programme for orthopaedically handicapped, organised by Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCFC) and State Bank of India. The latter as a follow up, provided a loan of Rs. 3000/- from one of it's local branches for setting up an imitation ornaments shop.

Health education forms an integral component of all LWS India health activities. The communities within the projects are encouraged to adopt healthy practices and ways of living, and discard harmful customs and superstitions.A dedicated band of workers deliver health education through regular and frequent Family, Group and Mass Meetings. Throughout the year awareness generation on health matters has brought about a perceptible positive change towards utilisation of health services, child bearing and rearing practices and control of water borne diseases.

Training and orientation programmes on health continue to receive high priority in LWS India projects. The central community health services unit assists the projects in formulating and conducting the courses. During the year several 3-day orientation courses were organised for opinion formers such as School Teachers, Village/Colony Committee members and representatives of youth and women's organisations. These courses, held mainly in the newly adopted areas, aim to reduce the gap in perception between real and felt needs in the community. As in the previous year, female participants out numbered the male ones in these courses.

Traditional Health Practitioners popularly known as 'Quacks' are the main health care takers in the remote rural areas, where organised health care facilities often do not reach or percolate. Training programmes for such practitioners who command considerable influence within the communities were initiated last year

with the aim of bringing them within the orbit of community health programme. The participants in each training programmes include practitioners from different systems of medicine. This year 44 participants underwent training of which 61% were allopathic, 20% homoeopathic and the rest 19% ayurvedic practitioners.

Mothers in rural areas and urban slums depend almost entirely on elderly illiterate, traditional midwives, popularly known as DAIS. Over the past years, efforts were made in the projects to enhance, modify, and upgrade their skills aimed at improving the process of child birth, thus reducing child and maternal mortality. This year one such course was held in the urban Calcutta and On-site Projects. Traditional Birth Attendants who received training in the year 1987 in our rural projects underwent refresher courses this year with the objective of fortifying and strengthening skills imparted earlier. During the refresher course, assesment of their performance after initial training, was carried out. The highlights revealed that 90% of them were regularly using the delivery kits and they had replenished some of the materials themselves. Some of the TBA's had even begun to take antenatal and post-natal care of the mothers. Many of the TBA's have started taking active part in motivating the mothers to accept family planning measures.

Community Health Workers (CHW) who are the representatives of the users and are entrusted to ensure continuation of primary health care programmes in future after LWS India withdraws, are given a three-year package training programme which is mostly on-the-job with short structured annual courses in between. 41 CHW's have already been identified and are in the process of training, of which 24 operate in rural areas while 17 work in urban slums, and the gender distribution is 26 female and 15 male. This year the CHW's of Kultali and Murshidabad projects jointly underwent their 1st phase of training whereas in Calcutta and On-Site Projects the CHW's completed their 3rd phase of training.

The health functionaries in the projects undergo annual training programmes so as to enrich their knowledge on current concepts and improve their competence in the light of changing needs.This year three courses were held for 32 health personnel in groups centred around the theme of "Health Planning and Organisation". The course content included the technical details of primary health care, participation, monitoring and social dimensions of health. To promote inter-project sharing and orientation, health staff get an opportunity to visit other projects and a few of the health staff are sent elsewhere to participate in training and seminars conducted by other organisations.

Workshops are held on an annual basis to enlighten the projects Community Health Officers. At these workshops the group deliberates on current issues, immediate and future priorities and formulate strategies. This year a 3-day workshop was held on the long felt need of arriving at a "Medicine Policy" in LWS India. The topics discussed were banned and bannable medicines, hazardous medicines, essential medicines, purchase and utilisation pattern, prescribing habits, monitoring and inventory control. The CMO's from various projects contributed meaningfully through lively presentations and papers. The draft medicine policy is being worked out.

Media plays a pivotal role in all our health education sessions and training programme. They include the use of print, electronic and traditional media. Most items are procured from government and non-governmental organisations. Some are modified to suit local conditions while a few are produced internally to fulfill the needs. Posters, flipcharts, flash cards, slides, audio and video cassettes, puppetry, dramas, folk songs and role plays are the methods and materials used.To communicate effectively the health messages, care is taken to ensure that the media used are simple, in local language and custom, and are appealing to the users. This year an audio cassette on school health prepared by Development Communication Unit and approved by Mass Media Division, Govt. of West Bengal was made available to the projects.

Homoeopathy as an additional option for the treatment of minor ailments, introduced in the health programme last year gained ground this year. The number of patients increased in the two dispensaries already operating in our Kultali Project. During the 1st half of '90 a homoeopathy dispensary also became operational in Murshidabad Project while two such dispensaries also became operational in Calcutta Project in the latter half of the year. The low cost intervention with the assistance of part-time Homoeopathic Doctors has generated enthusiasm and the users contributions are encouraging.

Involvement of the users in the

community health programme right from inception is of paramount importance to operationalise the concept of community based primary health care system managed by the community. The key components include identification and training of community health workers, creation, maintenance and growth of health funds, and management of the health programme by local organisations. The health fund in the projects showed a positive growth trend although viability still remains doubtful. A lot remains to be done to fulfill the dream of the community managing the health programme by themselves, but this year witnessed an increase in the involvement of the Village/Colony committees, health subcommittees and women's organisations in the health activities.

In keeping with LWS India's strategy of periodic evaluation, the community health component of LWS India programmes was evaluated by a national team in 1990. The six member team comprising of eminent professionals from the public health, social and management fields carried out a 15-day evaluation, visiting two rural and one urban programme. The evaluation process and report was a fruitful exercise and brought forth the strengths and weaknesses of the programme. This was followed by an inhouse formulation of an action plan based on the recommendations and observations.

Government Health agencies, UNICEF and the Municpal Corporation have given special emphasis on the immunisation of children and several special immunisation of camps were organised and immunisation weeks were observed. LWS India participated in such camps in the projects. LWS India participated in a workshop on nutrition at Calcutta organised by Food and Agriculture Organisation(FAO) in collaboration with the department of Biochemistry and Nutrition of All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. LWS India was also represented in a National Seminar on "Health of the tribal people" organised by Indian Society of Health Administrators. Health personnel in the projects also participated in local seminars and workshops. During the year the management information system (MIS) was reviewed and new reporting formats introduced considering the newly introduced planning and monitoring system (PMS) document.

LWS India's collaboration with various Central and State Government and Non-Government health agencies continue. The Government health agencies, provide nutritional supplements, family planning devices, audio-visual aids such as posters, slides and other information. The local Government health centres and hospitals made available their facilities for practical aspects of our training programme. Also, our referral services depend heavily on such facilities. External resource persons for LWS India training programmes are drawn from the Government and Non-Government health institutions. In our projects, LWS India is frequently invited to the Government block level health committee meetings for planning and joint implementation of health programme.

CURATIVE SERVICES

Allopathy

| Area | Number of Cases Treated | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 years & Above | | Under six | | |
| | Men & Women | Percent | Boys & Girls | Percent | |
| Calcutta | 3,263 | 59 | 2,268 | 41 | 5,531 |
| On-site | 1,325 | 69 | 598 | 31 | 1,923 |
| Kultali | 1,583 | 72 | 603 | 28 | 2,186 |
| Murshidabad | 630 | 80 | 154 | 20 | 784 |
| Burdwan | 383 | 70 | 168 | 30 | 551 |
| WHAT | 1,220 | 67 | 612 | 33 | 1,832 |
| Total | 8,404 | 66 | 4,403 | 34 | 12,807 |

COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING

| Area | Target Groups | | | | | Staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Orientation for Community Leaders, Women and Youth | Traditional Birth Attendants | Refresher course for Traditional Birth Attendants | Traditional Health Practitioners | Community Health Workers | Health Workers |
| Calcutta/on-site | 16 | 11 | -- | -- | 15 | 12 |
| Kultali | -- | -- | 10 | 14 | 3 | 3 |
| Murshidabad | -- | -- | 11 | 16 | 10 | 5 |
| Burdwan | 12 | -- | 11 | -- | -- | 3 |
| WHAT | -- | -- | 7 | 14 | -- | 6 |
| Birbhum | 43 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

HEALTH EDUCATION

| Activities | Programme area | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Calcutta | Murshidabad | Burdwan | WHAT | Kultali | On-site | Total |
| Family meeting | 3180 | 3797 | 1971 | 2195 | 957 | 1072 | 13172 |
| Group meeting | 721 | 311 | 133 | 266 | 122 | 87 | 1640 |
| Mass meeting | 122 | 22 | 25 | 60 | 54 | 28 | 311 |

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNISATION, MALNUTRITION AND FAMILY PLANNING COVERAGE (IN PERCENT)

| Name of the projects | Immunisation coverage | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | D.P.T. (3rd doses) | Polio (3rd doses) | B.C.G. | Measles | Malnutrition Gr. II & III | Family Planning |
| On-Site | 93 | 92 | 57 | 45 | 13 | 71 |
| Calcutta | 82 | 83 | 46 | 20 | 25 | 45 |
| Murshidabad | 72 | 50 | 49 | 30 | 16 | 36 |
| WHAT | 52 | 53 | 22 | 12 | 23 | 32 |
| Kultali | 46 | 55 | 65 | 26 | 09 | 37 |
| Burdwan | 45 | 37 | 28 | 11 | 25 | 34 |

CURATIVE SERVICES

Homeopathy

| Area | Number of Cases Treated | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Old | New | Total |
| Calcutta | 695 | 2565 | 3260 |
| Kultali | 1231 | 1087 | 2318 |
| Murshidabad | 469 | 153 | 622 |

# EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION

While disaster prone eastern India was spared om the vagaries of nature in 1990, disaster struck the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in the form of a cyclone while Ganjam and neighbouring districts of Orissa experienced a flash flood. During the year, the Emergency and Rehabilitation (E&R) Unit of LWS India undertook emergency relief operations in the cyclone affected areas of Andhra Pradesh and the flood hit Ganjam district of Orissa. Restoration and rehabilitation activities initiated in the previous years in West Bengal and Bihar also continued.

At the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Churches as well as the UELCI, Madras, the E & R Unit initiated emergency relief operations in the worst affected Guntur district. The relief operations continued for more than three months and activities included distribution of polythene sheets to provide temporary shelters and nutrition programme for children and mothers. Plans are being worked out with the State Government for rehabilitation programmes which will include assistance for reconstruction of houses.

In the flood hit district of Ganjam, E & R Unit responded to the State Government's request by extending timely relief measures. The operations undertaken included provision of ready made garments for children, polythene sheets to homeless families and a nutrition programme for mothers and children. Further, to tackle the problems of acute drinking water scarcity, the Drinking Water Drilling (DWD) unit initiated a programme for sinking 100 tubewells. The State Government has assured to share 50% of the total cost of each tubewell.

Simultaneously, rehabilitation programme was continued in the 1988 cyclone affected areas of North and South 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal. By the end of the year, 40 primary school buildings were reconstructed and 44 tubewells sunk to provide safe drinking water.

In the drought prone districts of Kalahandi and Balasore in Orissa, drought prevention programmes in the form of labour intensive food for work projects were undertaken for the benefit of the landless and small and marginal farmers. These activities comprised mostly of minor irrigation projects like excavation of reservoirs and tanks and construction of bundhs.

During the latter half of the year, at the request of the State Government, E & R Unit in collaboration with the district authorities undertook land development projects for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families with marginal land holdings on an experimental basis. While Government agencies provided the development cost, the E & R team implemented the schemes with voluntary labour from the beneficiary farmers.

The housing programme initiated in 1989 for the earthquake victims in the Madhubani district of Bihar was completed with the construction of 440 houses. Restoration and rehabilitation programme for the riot victims of Bhagalpur district in Bihar also continued.

- Along with the communities, the E & R Unit undertook reconstruction of houses for the homeless, sunk tubewells and reexcavated dug wells to provide potable water to the people of the area.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 1990, an amount of U.S.$ 3,317,561 was spent. This indicates a scaling down of more than 26% when we compare the expenditure to the U.S.$ 4,518,347, level of 1989. The main reason for the downward trend is more urgent needs in other parts of the world and an increased capability of the various Government Agencies to take better care of natural calamities. Year 1990 also saw the impact of the change of the operation modus of LWS India with smaller projects that stress, a low key approach with more and more involvement of volunteers.

The cooperation with the auditors M/ s Price Waterhouse remained excellent and with their help the financial systems were further improved.

The regular field visits from auditors and head office financial staff and the monthly visits from the field staff to Calcutta took care of good communication between the financial departments.

TOTAL-EXPENDITURE - BOTH IN CASH & KIND

| Item | Amount | |
|---|---|---|
| | INR | USD |
| Development | 41,145,720 | 2,417,376 |
| Emergency | 11,286,760 | 667,756 |
| Projects funded by other agencies | 451,839 | 26,440 |
| Sub-total | 52,884,319 | 3,111,572 |
| Value of donated commodities -LWS | 3,391,123 | 205,989 |
| | 56,275,442 | 3,317,561 |

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-12-1990

| Programme | Amount | | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | INR | USD | |
| 1. Implementation & program support | 3,897,601 | 228,999 | 9.5 |
| 2. Prem Unit | 1,394,145 | 82,006 | 3.4 |
| 2. Engineering & Technical Services | 4,27,798 | 25,081 | 1.0 |
| 4. WHAT project | 9,179,105 | 541,143 | 22.4 |
| 5. Burdwan project | 2,043,454 | 119,342 | 4.9 |
| 6. Calcutta project | 4,815,782 | 282,780 | 11.7 |
| 7. Murshidabad project | 4,017,086 | 235,793 | 9.8 |
| 8. Development Communication Unit | 2,706,836 | 159,439 | 6.6 |
| 9. Community Health Service | 1,726,365 | 101,992 | 4.2 |
| 10. Kultali project | 2,260,692 | 132,758 | 5.5 |
| 11. On Site Improvement project | 1,534,821 | 90,174 | 3.7 |
| 12. Birbhum project | 963,522 | 56,374 | 2.3 |
| 13. Bolangir project | 419,279 | 24,496 | 1.0 |
| 14. Donated commodities | 1,018,386 | 56,999 | 2.4 |
| 15. Provision for emergencies | 1,367,574 | 80,000 | 3.3 |
| 16. Work projects | 3,373,274 | 200,000 | 8.3 |
| | 41,145,720 | 2,417,376 | 100 |

PROJECT-WISE ALLOCATION OF PERMANENT STAFF AS ON 31.12.90

| Sl. No. | Name of Projects | Staff | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men | Women | |
| 1. | Head Office | 23 | 05 | 28 |
| 2. | Prem Unit | 06 | 04 | 10 |
| 3. | Engineering & Technical Services | 06 | 01 | 07 |
| 4. | Community Health Services | 08 | -- | 08 |
| 5. | Calcutta/On Site | 40 | 37 | 77 |
| 6. | Development Communication Unit | 14 | 02 | 16 |
| 7. | Murshidabad project | 30 | 08 | 38 |
| 8. | Kultali project | 24 | 09 | 33 |
| 9. | Birbhum project | 09 | 04 | 13 |
| 10. | Bolangir project | 09 | -- | 09 |
| 11. | WHAT project | 53 | 06 | 59 |
| 12. | Bankura (LWS/CAPART Project) | 07 | -- | 07 |
| | Sub total | 229 | 76 | 305 |
| 13. | Emergency office | 09 | 02 | 11 |
| 14. | Emergency field offices | 44 | -- | 44 |
| 15. | Drilling Unit | 42 | 1 | 43 |
| | | 324 | 79 | 403 |
| | | 80% | 20% | 100% |

# THE EXECUTIVE

## Central Office

| | |
|---|---|
| Director | - Erling Nielsen |
| Deputy Director | - G. S. Banerjee |
| Programme Secretary | - Neville Pradhan |
| Finance Adviser | - C. Minderhoud |
| Emergency Officer | - P.C. Joseph |
| Special Projects | - D. Roychoudhury |
| Chief Accountant | - T. Mukherjee |

## Sectoral Offices

| | |
|---|---|
| Development Communication | - B.B.Choudhuri, Programme Coordinator |
| Engineering & Technical Services | - T.Chakraborty, Technical Adviser |
| Community Health Services | - R.K.Das, Programme Coordinator |

## Programme Offices

| | |
|---|---|
| Water, Health & Agriculture Trident (WHAT) | - P.K.Chakraborty, Programme Coordinator |
| | - S.C.Patnaik, Joint Programme Coordinator |
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